Stock market jittery, peso down over protests

STORY ON PAGE A2

Inquirer, GMA-7 to host 'Great Debate'

THE COUNTRY'S two biggest political coalitions are participating in the Great Senatorial Debate to be held on May 4 under the auspices of the GMA 7 Network and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The debate will feature four to six senatorial candidates each from the People Power Coalition and the Puwersa ng Masa in a townhall

INQUIRER/ A19

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2001 ★★ 88 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 138 ₱15

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Erap allies mass at Edsa

'Poor people's power' vows to return Estrada to Malacañang

BY VOLT CONTRERAS, BLANCHE RIVERA AND AGNES E. DONATO

FOR SUPPORTERS of arrested former President Joseph Estrada, a new "numbers game" has begun.

"*Tuloy-tuloy na ito* (We're going all the way)," said former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, who spent the night with thousands of demonstrators at the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong and called the rally "poor people's power."

She made the prediction in answer to a reporter's question of whether the crowd might withdraw if her husband, who was arrested Wednesday, were to be put under house arrest.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago put in clear terms what the opposition hopes to achieve.

"If we can gather enough numbers to convince the administration that it is in (its) own best interest to voluntarily step down, then President Estrada will be restored to the presidency," she told a press conference yesterday.

The sight of thousands of Estrada loyalists gathered at the site of two People Power uprisings stirred allies of the disgraced leader to call for a third.

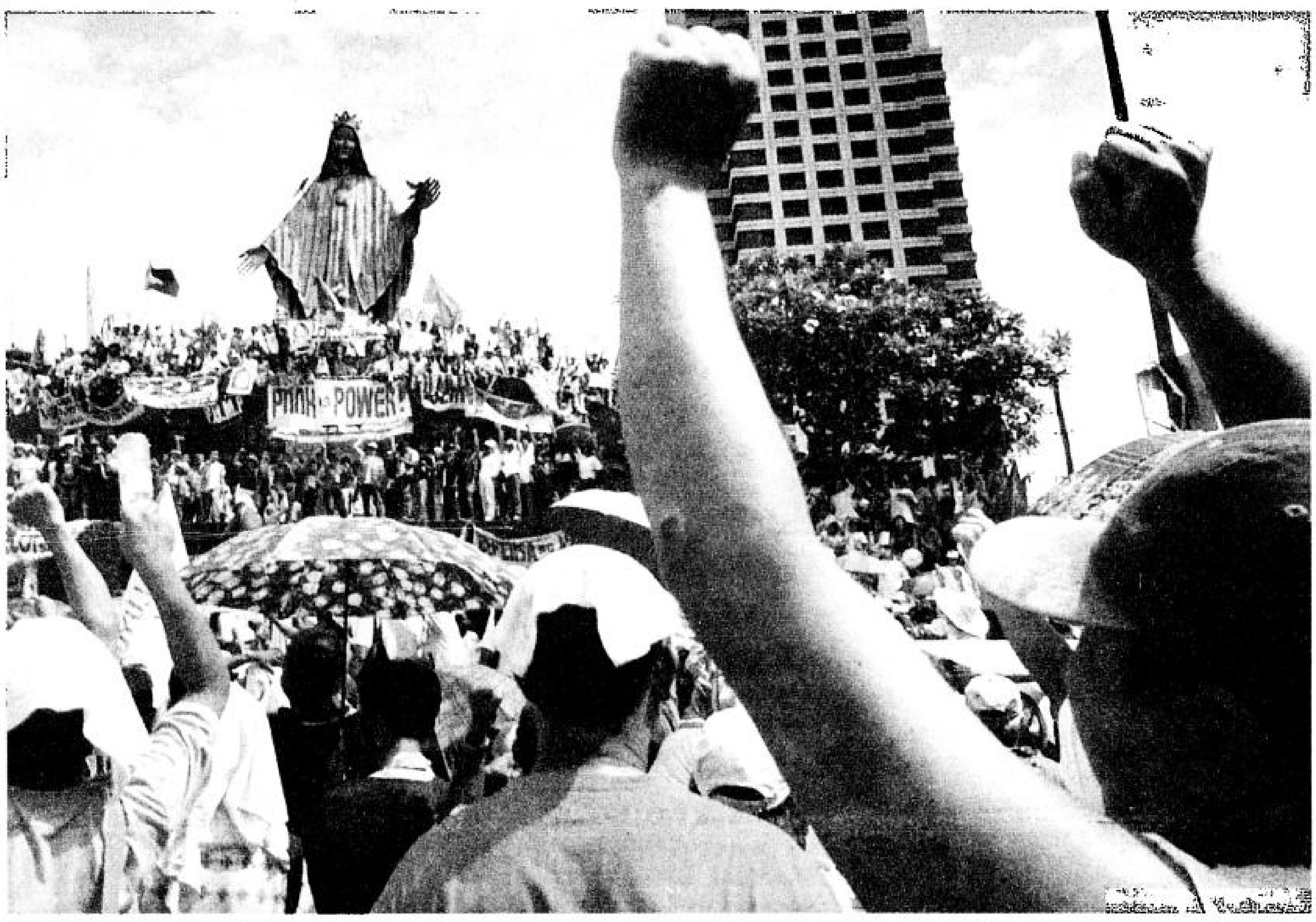
"This is just a numbers game," said Santiago, a candidate of the Puwersa ng Masa-Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino coalition.

The coalition claimed in a statement that at "least 50,000" had joined the rally, but other crowd estimates were between 10,000 and 20,000 as of 10 p.m. yesterday.

The coalition said "the number is expected to swell to 1.5 million—enough to effectively hold People Power III."

The hordes of loyalists began gathering at the historic shrine just hours after Estrada and his son Jinggoy were arrested and jailed for economic plunder on Wednesday afternoon.

ERAP ALLIES/ A22



AS THOUSANDS continue to protest the arrest and detention of deposed President Estrada, the bronze statue of Our Lady of Peace, which distinguishes the now historic landmark as sacred ground, looms large over the disturbing development.

AP

'Delia Rajas' baffles police

BY MARTIN MARFIL, ROCKY NAZARENO AND CHRISTINE HERRERA

WHO is the real Delia Rajas? This was one of the problems encountered by law enforcement units out to serve the warrants of arrest for the rest of the accused in deposed President Joseph Estrada's plunder case.

Warrant servers had also discovered that some of the addresses used in the warrants were fictitious. Add to this is the fact that at least two of the accused fled the country when Estrada was ousted from power last January.

So far, only three of the eight accused are in the custody of the government. Estrada and San Juan Mayor Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada were taken into custody by the police

DELIA/ A5

Protesters accused of vandalism

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA, GERALD G. LACUARTA, CARLITO PABLO AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

WHATEVER legitimate protest the supporters of Joseph Estrada were trying to air yesterday was marred by accusations of vandalism, unruliness and hostility toward the media.

Thousands of loyalists of Joseph Estrada at the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong allegedly vandalized the memorial to People Powers I and II, prompting Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's spokesperson to call on them to respect the "sacred character of the place."

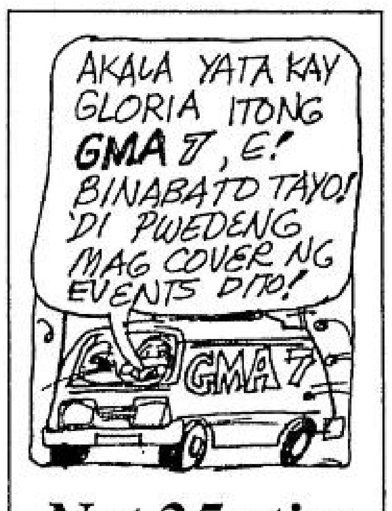
Msgr. Socrates Rodrigo, rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Edsa, urged the police to evict the protesters if they continued to desecrate the place.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines made the same appeal following reports that protesters had taken down the flag of the Holy See, clambered up the bronze statue of the Virgin Mary, spray-painted the walls and dumped trash on a marker for People Power II.

"Excuse us, but don't call it People Power III," militant groups told the Estrada supporters who trooped to the shrine immediately after his arrest on Tuesday.

"That place is hallowed ground," said Msgr. Ding Coronel, CBCP

PROTESTERS/ A22


AKALA YATA KAY GLORIA ITONG GMA 7, E! BINABATO TAYO! 'DI PWEDENG MAG COVER NG EVENTS DITO!
GMA 7

Net 25 stirs up battle of airwaves

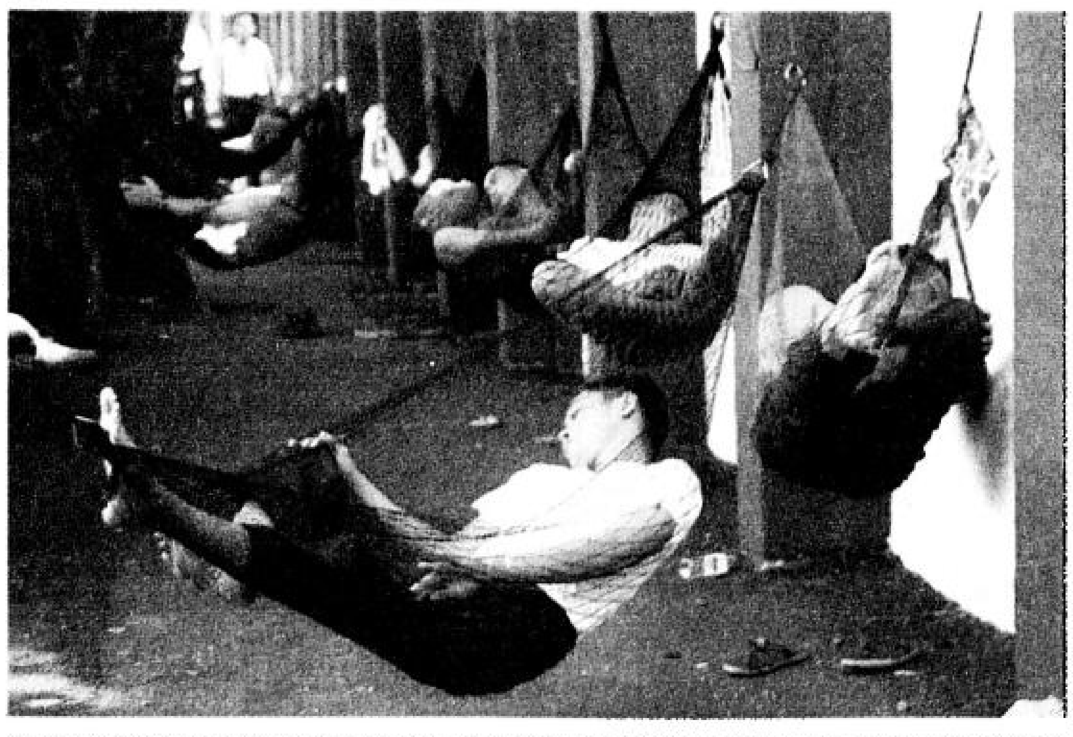
BY LEAH SALTERIO

WHAT is Net 25?

And why has it been telecasting a non-stop, one-sided account of the events now unfolding at the Edsa Shrine that supporters of deposed President Estrada call People Power III?

The UHF channel, Net 25, seen on SkyCable Channel 62 and on Home

NET 25/ A5



EDWIN BACASMAS

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: The team of policemen who assisted in serving the arrest warrant on ex-President Estrada treat themselves to a well-earned snooze on a lullaby of hammocks.

Prisoner complains about bad jail food

JOSEPH Estrada dined on eggplant omelet and rice Wednesday night, after which he was taken to a three-by-four-meter "maximum security cell" at the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) detention center in Camp Crame.

Known for his hedonistic lifestyle, Estrada complained in a TV interview about poor air circulation in the cell as well as the food, which he said was served to him in a plastic container.

"It is very sad. I did not think this would happen to me," said the 64-year-old ex-president, who was arrested and jailed earlier Wednesday on charges of plunder.

In a statement he issued yesterday "from his prison cell to the Filipino people," Estrada reiterated that he was innocent of the charges and that "what we are fighting (for) and defending at Edsa today is not Erap but the sanctity of our Constitution, the integrity of our rights and the stability of the rule of law in our country."

He expressed "sincere gratitude" for

PRISONER/ A4

PNP seeks Sandigan OK to bring Erap to Laguna

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA, MARTIN P. MARFIL AND CATHY C. YAMSUAN

THREATENED by the growing number of Joseph Estrada's loyalists at the Edsa Shrine, the Philippine National Police yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to move the ex-president from Camp Crame to the Philippine National Police-Special Action Forces Training and Seminar Center at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

In a three-page manifestation, PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza said the proposed detention area would ensure not only Estrada's "safety and security" but also "a much better accommodation commensurate to his stature."

Mendoza said it would be "a suitable place for his confinement in view of its secured environment and the adequacy of facilities and other necessities (there.)"

But at a hearing hours later, lawyers of Estrada

PNP/ A22

Veritas poll says it's 9-4 for PPC bets

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

IT'S 9-4 in favor of the senatorial candidates of the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC), according to results of a nationwide survey conducted by the Veritas/ Catholic Media Network on April 19-20.

The survey covered 2,500 randomly selected respondents and had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percent percentage points.

PPC candidates Juan Flavier, Joker Arroyo, Frank Drilon, Sergio Osmeña III, Francis Pangilinan,

VERITAS/ A19

EDWIN BACASMAS

'DA KING': "*Walang Iwanan* (Friends for keeps)," quips the King of Philippine Movies, Fernando Poe Jr., on his way to visit his friend in need and in detention at Camp Crame.

Second FRONT PAGE

KAKABAKABA ANG STOCKS!

Stock market jittery over protests

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCIAL markets turned jittery yesterday after supporters of former President Joseph Estrada continued to gather at Edsa to protest his arrest and detention, pushing the peso to close at P51 to $1.

Stocks also closed lower with most blue chips posting huge losses, largely on jitters over street protests on the arrest of Estrada for plunder, Reuters reported.

The main composite index fell 24.68 points or 1.69 percent to end at the day's low of 1,437.50 points.

The market erased all of the previous day's gains, which came partly on Estrada's arrest.

The arrest of the ousted president is likely to trigger market uncertainty in the short term but long-term implications should be positive, analysts said on Thursday.

"In the short-term, the jailing of Estrada may create some political uncertainty on fears his supporters may try to destabilize the government," said Lena Tan, director of research for Asia at Fortis Investment Management Asia Ltd. in Hong Kong.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said on Wednesday Estrada's arrest should send a positive signal to investors.

"This only shows that we have a strong government with a firm leadership that adheres to the law," he said.

But foreign fund managers said investing in the Philippines still carried much risk.

"It's a market not to be forgotten but it is not for short-term investors," said Aaron Pong, director of RBC Investment Management (Asia) Ltd. also in Hong Kong.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura admitted the local currency's decline was aggravated by fears of foreign investors the pro-Estrada demonstrations could turn violent.

'Class war'

Traders were even more pessimistic the "class war" spin being put on the whole Estrada saga by his supporters could drag the peso further to P52 to the greenback.

And scenarios like the one in which the May 14 elections would be cancelled, or "No-el," being bandied about by certain quarters, could batter the peso even more, some traders said.

A local trader from a foreign bank said, however, that topping the peso's historic low of P54.79 to $1 on Jan.18, 2001, or two days before President Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath, seems farfetched for now.

"The peso would likely open at P51.25 and, depending on whether the rally at Edsa would turn violent and if the number of supporters escalates, the peso could even breach P52 (today)," the trader said.

Buenaventura maintained that regional factors like the depreciation of the Indonesian rupiah was the primary reason for the peso's fall.

"This is principally regional volatility and partly domestic because of fears the demonstrations could become violent," the BSP governor said.

Sell down

Another trader said once major markets opened, particularly in New York, the big investment banks would naturally sell down the peso as well as peso assets.

Johnny Noe Ravalo, chief economist of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, said there is no doubt the peso's weakness is "partly political in nature."

"The issue is how much is political and how much is regional," Ravalo said.

Sergio Ortiz Luis, chair of the Exporters Confederation of the Philippines, said the group was not rejoicing over the renewed volatility of the peso.

"A fluctuating peso doesn't mean anything much to exporters unless one catches it in the tail end," he said.

Traders said the central bank was not in the market yesterday even as volume rose to $132.35 million from $116.2 million the other day. Buenaventura affirmed the BSP did not intervene.

"Not yet," he said.

With a report from Reuters

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Oslo talks start today

By TJ Burgonio

THE GOVERNMENT expects a host of contentious issues to crop up in peace negotiations with the communist National Democratic Front which resume today in Oslo, Norway.

Members of the Government Republic of the Philippines (GRP) panel were optimistic, however, that both sides would rise above the issues going by the series of "goodwill gestures" each gave the other in the run-up to the talks.

"We're confident that with sincerity and the will of the panels, we would be able to overcome the contentious issues we'll be encountering during the talks," said GRP panel chair Silvestre Bello III at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport prior to the 19-member delegation's departure for Norway Wednesday night.

The fresh round of talks, coming nearly two years after negotiations were suspended during the Estrada administration, will be held at an Oslo hotel until May 1.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, a panel member and chair of its reciprocal working committee, said two-thirds of the NDF's proposals in the talks involve agrarian reform.

"There will be a lot of touchy issues such as policies, programs and implementing guidelines for agrarian reform," Braganza told the INQUIRER.

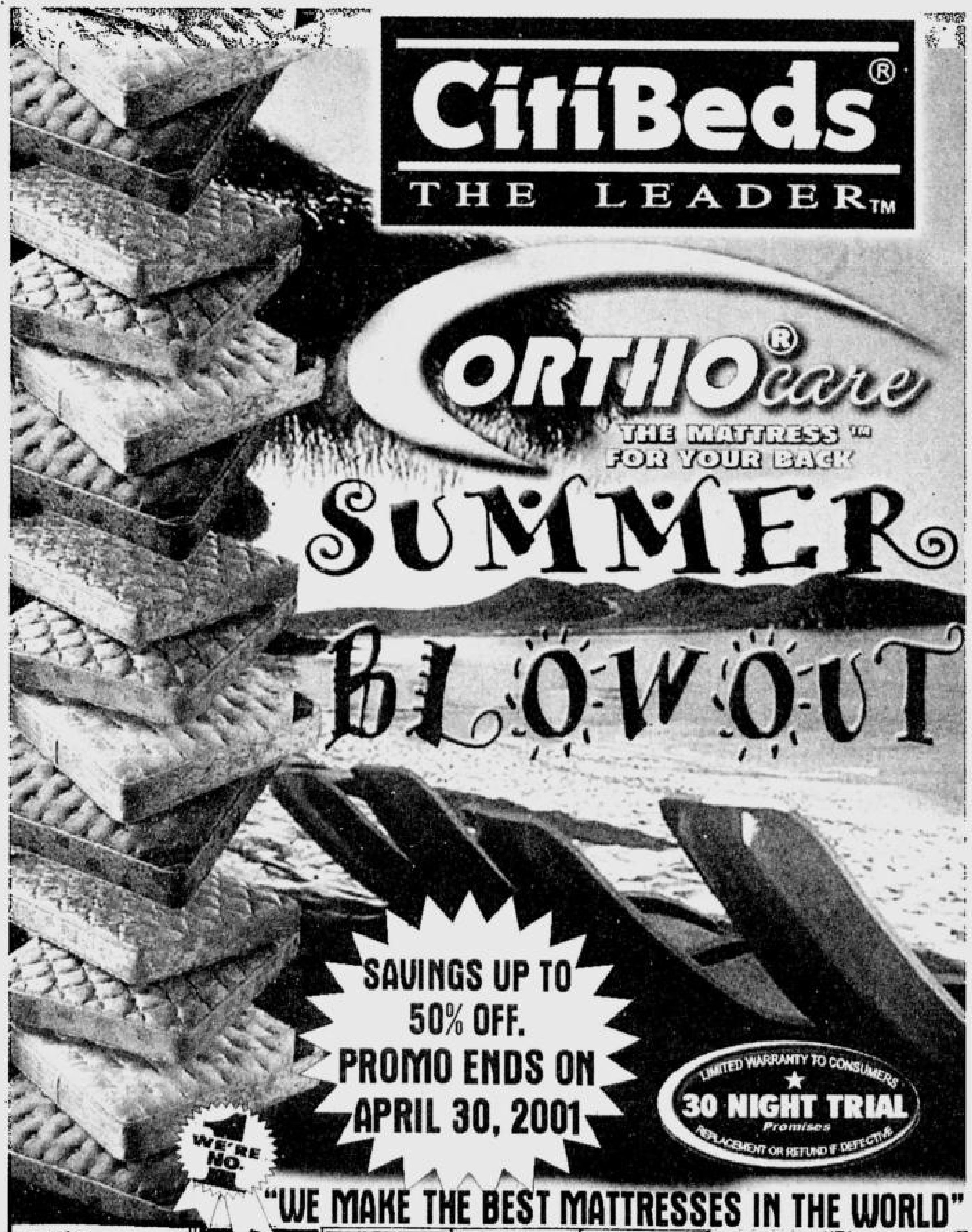
He added, "In a way the peace talks would be good because you would see the strengths and weaknesses of the government program."

The main agenda in the first round of the talks is socio-economic reforms, one of the four substantial agreements signed by both panels at the start of the last talks in 1997.

The other items on the agenda, such as the comprehensive agreement for the respect of human rights and international humanitarian law, political and constitutional reforms and the end of hostilities, will be discussed in the next 18 months.

The GRP panel has been instructed by President Macapagal-Arroyo "to negotiate" within the purview of the Constitution.

"That's no. 1 in the memo of instruction of the President," said Secretary Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, who saw the GRP delegation off at the airport.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RP-US war games start on eve of talks

By Carlito Pablo

THIS year's joint war exercises between the Philippines and the United States formally started yesterday, on the eve of the resumption of peace talks between the government and the communist National Democratic Front in Oslo, Norway.

"A coincidence," said Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. "The exercises were planned last year."

The NDF had demanded the abrogation of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, which calls for the joint exercises, before the rebel group would resume peace talks with the government.

"The exercises should by no means be part of the negotiations," said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes at the opening rites at Camp Aguinaldo.

"We have bilateral and national interests and a commitment to protect them," he said of the VFA, whose ratification on May 29, 1999 prompted the NDF to withdraw from peace talks with the previous administration.

This year's exercises, dubbed Balikatan 2001, will be scaled down, according to Lt. Col. Ann Freed, US public affairs co-director for the war games.

"There will be no live fire exercises because of sensitivity to the May 14 elections," Freed said. "We don't want Americans seen carrying loaded weapons."

The exercises come also at a time the US and China are at loggerheads over trade and military issues such as the recent collision of two of their planes and US arms sales to Taiwan.

US charge d' affaires Michael Malinowski, who was present at the rites, said this year's maneuvers are not connected to the current conflict with China.

"This has nothing to do with recent developments concerning China and Taiwan but merely involves two players—the United States and the Philippines," Malinowski said.

Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. warned earlier against a repeat of the fatal incident in Toledo City, Cebu last year where two teenage boys were killed after they had strayed into a live fire training area.

This year's exercises will be held from April 26 to May 10, four days before local and congressional elections.

A total of 1,700 US troops, 300 fewer than last year, will participate in maneuvers with an equal number of Filipino soldiers.

The exercises will be conducted in Tarlac; Pampanga, Cavite and Nueva Ecija. *With Rocky Nazareno and AFP reports*

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Basilan clashes toll rises to 24

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Twenty-four people have died, mostly paramilitary troops, in renewed fighting in Basilan between government forces and Muslim separatists, the military said yesterday.

The clashes began on Tuesday when militia units organized by the military attacked the fundamentalist Abu Sayyaf guerrillas on the island of Taplantana off Basilan island, just south of Zamboanga City.

Eighteen militiamen and six rebels have been killed in three days of skirmishes, an army spokesman said. *Reuters*

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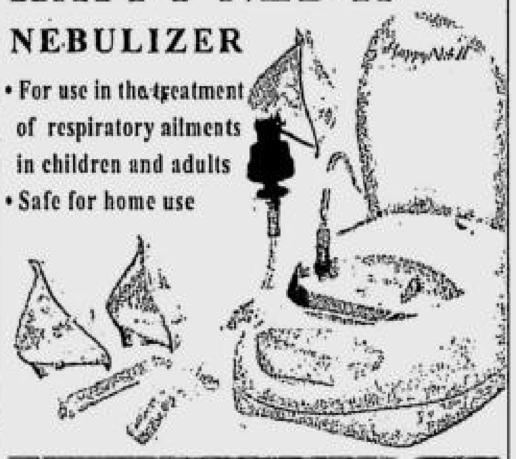

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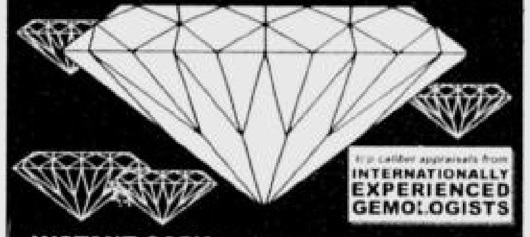

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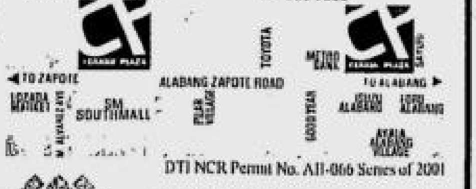

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Prisoner . . .

(From page A1)

the "warm and unwavering support" to him and his family, and said he was "in the best of health."

"I pray that your protest actions at Edsa will be peaceful and sober," he said.

Senior Supt. Prospero Noble, chief of the Philippine National Police support services, said yesterday that Estrada was escorted by dozens of policemen to his cell.

His son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, who was also arrested and jailed on Wednesday, was taken to a separate cell adjacent to his. The son was allowed to visit him before he went to sleep, officials said.

According to Noble, Estrada's cell is equipped with a toilet but not an air-conditioning unit. However, Estrada himself said the cell had an air-conditioning unit "but there is no air coming out."

Estrada lawyer Jose Flaminiano said the defense team would appeal to the court "from the standpoint of humanity and compassion" to allow its client to be confined to his home in North Greenhills, San Juan.

Flaminiano said Estrada had served his country in various posts for more than 30 years, which entitled him "to some degree of consideration."

But Justice Secretary Hernando Perez insisted that "house arrest is not allowed."

Reporters were not allowed to view Estrada's cell. They only caught a glimpse of him being escorted up to the door leading to the detention center from the conference room where he entertained his visitors.

PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza cited security reasons to explain the restriction.

Mendoza and other ranking PNP officials told reporters that Estrada was not exempt from the rules governing inmates.

But while the rules say inmates can receive visitors only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the disgraced leader was yesterday allowed a number of visitors such as his family, the senatorial candidates of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa (LDP-PnM), and close friends.

They came and went as they pleased although visiting hours are 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.

Some LDP-PnM candidates came at around noon, after holding a news conference at the Club Filipino in San Juan.

Among yesterday's visitors were his wife Luisa Ejercito, candidates Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile, Vicente Sotto III and Ricardo Puno and Jamby Madrigal.

The former first lady said she was allowed to take food to her husband. The food was brought in four iron pots that contained rice and crispy pata.

"I never thought this would happen," Ejercito said before joining her husband's loyalists massed at the Edsa Shrine. "Before he left, he told me: I never thought my life would end up like this."

On Wednesday night, Santiago was among the last to leave Camp Crame. All of the visitors, including members of Estrada's family, left at around 10:45 p.m.

When Santiago came back to visit yesterday, she reiterated to reporters her call for an "Edsa III" and claimed that it was already materializing.

Another visitor was Estrada's buddy, actor Fernando Poe Jr., who said he could not possibly turn his back on his friend.

"*Sa aming pagkakaibigan, walang iwanan* (In our friendship, no one leaves the other)," Poe said.

The most awaited visitor by PNP officials and reporters covering Camp Crame is Panfilo Lacson Jr., former chief of the PNP and the defunct PAOCTF, and also an LDP-PnM senatorial candidate.

In Laoag City, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. told reporters he would visit his "personal friend" when he got the chance to be in Metro Manila.

"I have never been in this situation before so I do not know what advice I can give him. Perhaps, it would be just the same advice that I give anyone who is in trouble, who is in crisis: Don't give up. You will soon see yourself out of it," said the son and namesake of the late dictator.

Marcos Jr. said Estrada's arrest was a "very sad" experience in Philippine history, and expressed the fear that it would set the stage for another "people power" uprising.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday that Estrada might have been subjected to unfair treatment when he was arrested.

Tiglao said Estrada's jailers erred in allowing TV crews to film him while his mug shots were being taken, but denied that sending thousands of policemen to carry out the arrest order on Wednesday had been "overkill."

"It is not overkill. He had so many loyalists who were very emotional," Tiglao said in a radio interview, referring to the hundreds of Estrada's supporters who tried to physically prevent his arrest.

"It was more of a move to secure the ex-president," Tiglao said. Estrada's allies have decried the use of so many policemen in the arrest and accused the government of humiliating Estrada by letting TV stations and newspapers show him having his mug shots taken and being fingerprinted by police.

"We had no way of knowing a television station would bring in a camera. The policy of the national police is not to have television coverage like that. Even ordinary criminals, you don't see them being fingerprinted that way," said Tiglao a former columnist of the INQUIRER.

He added: "Someone slipped through. That is a problem with some (of the) media. I was in the media before, and it is a challenge to do things like that."

Tiglao also said that there was no law against covering arrests in this manner, and that there were no plans to punish the news organizations involved.

In a statement issued early last night, the President said she had instructed the Department of the Interior and Local Government to provide "all the amenities due and befitting" Estrada and his son.

"Let it be said that this government is sensitive to the needs of the former head of state," the President said in the statement read by Tiglao.

"This government is committed to due process, and due process will be the guiding light in the forthcoming trial" of Estrada, she added. ***Reports from Christine Herrera, Alcuin Papa, Armand Nocum; Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; AFP***

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'Delia Rajas' identity baffles police

(From page A1)

from their North Greenhills residence Wednesday afternoon and lawyer Edward Serapio surrendered to the police later that night.

Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta said he has to consult with the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation Division Group to determine the real Delia Rajas.

"Who is the real Delia Rajas? We have to check with the records during the hearings at the impeachment proceedings. Who is the real McCoy?" Urieta said.

He pointed out that she might not be the one presented during the impeachment trial who had testified that she was a cook for the mother of businessman and Estrada crony Charlie "Atong" Ang.

"Isn't she a Delia Rajas? But how can we place her under arrest? What if we make a mistake?" Urieta said.

Ang is also charged in the plunder case but he fled last January. Another co-accused, Estrada's alleged personal auditor, Yolanda Ricaforte, also left the country.

Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said extradition might be a better option than deportation in trying to bring Ang and Ricaforte to justice. The Philippine government already cancelled their passports but has so far failed to have them deported back to the country.

Ebdalin said seeking deportation could take longer than extradition because Ang and Ricaforte could challenge a deportation order and even apply for an asylum, invoking their human rights.

Ang was believed to have fled to Las Vegas while Ricaforte was reportedly also in the United States. The Philippines has an extradition treaty with the United States.

"The subject of deportation can always question the deportation order and the case would drag on," Ebdalin said. "Whereas if it's an extradition case, it is referred directly to the court."

Ebdalin admitted that it would be easier to get Ricaforte back to the country than Ang, who also reportedly holds a Taiwanese passport.

"If (Ang) has two passports, then he can still travel from one place to another using his other passport," Ebdalin said.

Lawyer Edward Serapio is now detained at the PNP-CIDG detention cell after surrendering to PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza at 8:20 p.m. Wednesday.

Serapio, who was accompanied by his wife, Grace, and lawyers Sabino Acut Jr. and Martin Israel Pison, maintained his innocence in the plunder case.

Asked what took him so long to surrender when Estrada surrendered as early as 3 p.m., Serapio said he had to wait for his lawyers who were stuck in traffic after filing his motion for bail before the Sandiganbayan.

"I surrendered because I felt I could defend myself and I am doing this for the honor of my family," Serapio said. "I am confident I would be cleared of the charges."

Serapio said his lawyers would not be collaborating with the lawyers of Estrada.

"I have only one line (of defense) and that's the line of truth," Serapio said.

According to Urieta, several teams have fanned out to various places in Metro Manila to serve the warrants. But when they tried to trace "Jane Doe a.k.a Delia Rajas," there was no such address as Solid Builders Center in Barangay Corazon de Jesus in San Juan, the address given in the warrant.

"We have a report (called) 'notice of resolution' saying that Delia Rajas was unknown in that area. There is no such address; it's fictitious. There's no Solid Builders Center," he said.

For Alma Alfaro, another accused, Urieta said they have asked regional police units to determine if she is still in the address given—Capt. Sabi, Zone 4-A, Talisay, Negros Occidental.

Urieta said the address of "John Doe a.k.a. Eleuterio Tan, Eleuterio Ramos Tan or Mr. Uy" was also fictitious, like that of Rajas. Tan's address was 20 Pilar St., Mandaluyong or Barangay Bagbaguin, Valenzuela.

"There is no number 20 on Pilar Street," Urieta said.

In Cebu City, the lawyer of businessman Victor Jose Tan Uy, also known as Jojo Uy, said authorities have no basis to arrest his client. Lawyer Glenn Villariza maintained that his client is not the Eleuterio Tan who is now a subject of the arrest warrant.

Senior Supt. Jose Antonio Salvacion, Cebu police director, said they could not make a move on Uy yet because they have not received any copy of the arrest warrant. But he said they were monitoring Uy's activities.

When asked about Uy's whereabouts, Villariza said he is in Manila and is not in hiding. But a female guard in Uy's Cebu office said the businessman left for Mindanao on April 3. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Net 25 stirs . . .

(From page A1)

Cable Channel 18 is owned by the politically influential religious sect, Iglesia ni Cristo (INC).

It has been covering Estrada's version of People Power immediately after his arrest on Wednesday when his followers flocked to Edsa.

The INC executive minister, Eraño Manalo, had been described as non-committal when then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had asked for his support before People Power II.

Net 25 news anchors on Thursday afternoon taunted the country's major TV networks for their failure to keep pace with its live coverage of a "newsworthy" event.

They pointed out that these networks continuously covered People Power II for four days last January. Why not now?

Security reasons

The ABS-CBN director for news gathering, David Jude Sta. Ana, said there was no deliberate attempt on the part of the network to downplay the coverage. He said it was for safety reasons that the network couldn't air a live coverage of the rally.

"The crowd was hostile to our reporters and cameramen," Sta. Ana told the INQUIRER. "Since Wednesday when Erap was arrested, the people were throwing stones and shouting at mediamen. We couldn't set up an OB van there much as we wanted to."

Sta. Ana said that, in fact, ABS-CBN has been airing hourly news advisory and updates about the Edsa event.

"We even use chopper shots every hour," he explained. "It's being covered as a news event."

GMA-7's executive producer for "Saksi," John Manalastas, also cited the safety problem of their news reporters, production and technical crew, for not airing a live broadcast of the rally.

"For the news department, we had all the intentions but our OB van couldn't even get near the area because the crowd wouldn't let it pass," he said.

"But we devoted 'Saksi' to the live coverage of the event."

Foreign networks

The spokesperson of Manalo said it was not only Net 25 which was extensively covering the Edsa rally. In contrast to the locals, foreign networks like CNN, BBC, NHK and Reuters were also at the historic site, he said.

The spokesperson also denied that INC members were ordered to mass at the Edsa shrine. "It's up to them to go according to their conscience," he said.

Texting for Erap

The station encourages viewers to air their opinions about Estrada's arrest by sending text messages at 0919-3713840, calling the hotline numbers at 927-5737 or 927-4793, faxing at 928-2317 and through e-mail at news@net-25.com.

Some of the unabashedly pro-Erap messages shown on the TV screen read: "*Gloria, bilang na ang araw mo, magbalot ka na* (Your days are numbered; pack up)."

"*Di mangmang ang nasa Edsa ngayon, kahit mahirap alam ang pinaglalaban* (Those at Edsa are not stupid, even if they are poor, they know what they are fighting for said another)."

We believe in you. Keep up the good work."

"*Wala akong tiwala sa mga reporters ng Channel 2 and 7. Sinira nila ang tiwala ng tao* (I don't trust the reporters of Channel 2 and 7. They have ruined the people's trust). Thank you and more power."

The TV broadcast is complemented by the radio coverage on dzEC, 1062 khz on the AM band. It is aired by Eagle Broadcasting Corp., also owned by INC.

Net 25 has no OB van. So, the video feed is delayed. But the coverage has live audio aired by dzEC, with anchors Totoy Talastas and Mavic Angeles.

Prior to the Edsa coverage, Net 25 aired mostly Christian shows since it premiered on UHF and cable TV six months ago.

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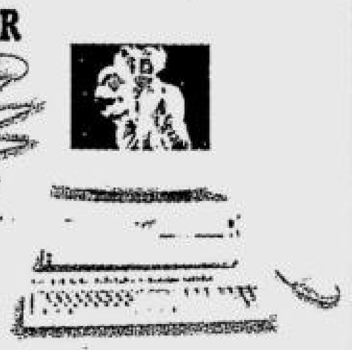

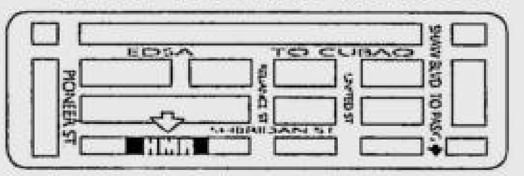

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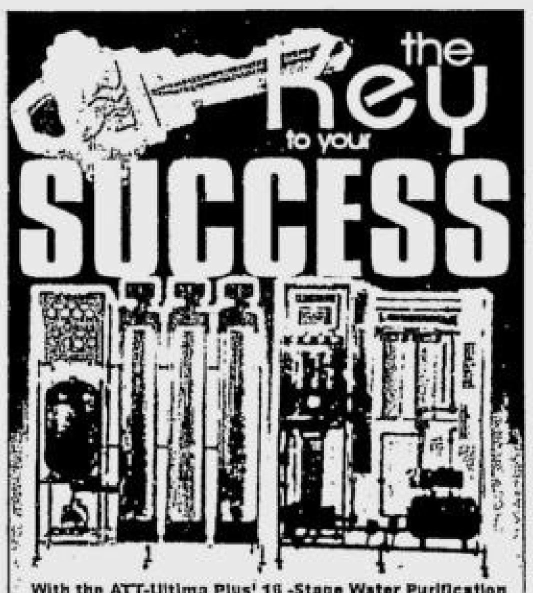

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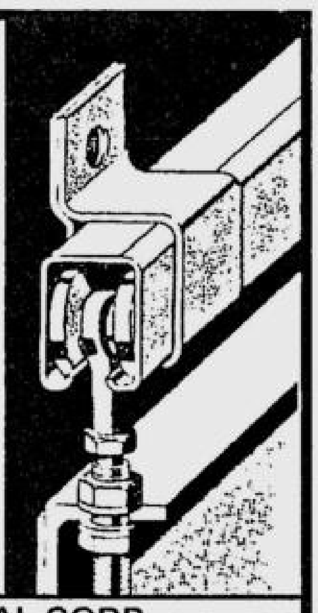

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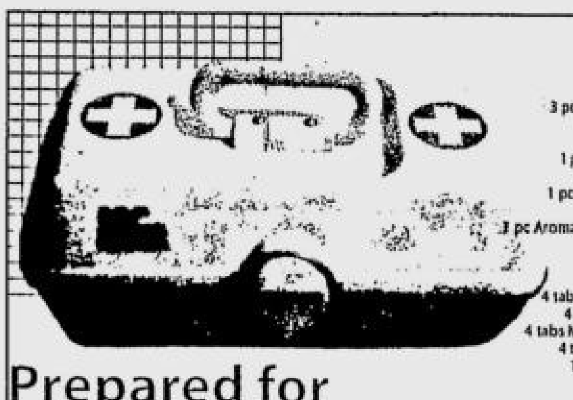

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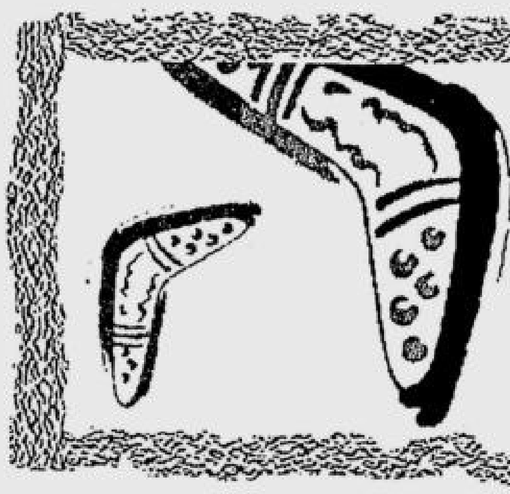

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Gun case vs Erap weak, says Comelec

By G. Lacuarta

A SENIOR official of the Commission on Elections yesterday admitted there was no strong evidence to pin down ousted President Joseph Estrada for violation of the election gun ban because the pistol that was seen in the disgraced leader's vehicle last week was not seized by authorities.

Comelec commissioner Rex Borra said the gun was needed as physical evidence to investigate and charge Estrada with violation of the Omnibus Election Code, if it turns out that the former president does not have an exemption from the election gun ban.

"The physical evidence is something you can touch and examine. If you don't have the gun, what will you prosecute when there is no evidence?" Borra said.

A newspaper photo on April 20 showed a holstered gun lying next to left foot of Estrada as he was about to alight from a van during his Taguig birthday tour. Estrada had admitted that the gun was his, but he did not say if it was covered by an exemption from the Comelec. He said it was licensed.

But Borra, echoing an earlier opinion expressed by Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo, said a mere photo could not be used as evidence to prove a violation of the election gun ban.

He said under procedures on Comelec checkpoints, the weapon must be confiscated if the owner fails to present an exemption certificate from the poll body's committee on firearms and security personnel duly signed by Commissioner Ralph Lantion.

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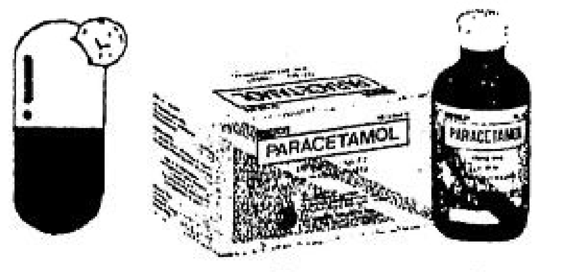
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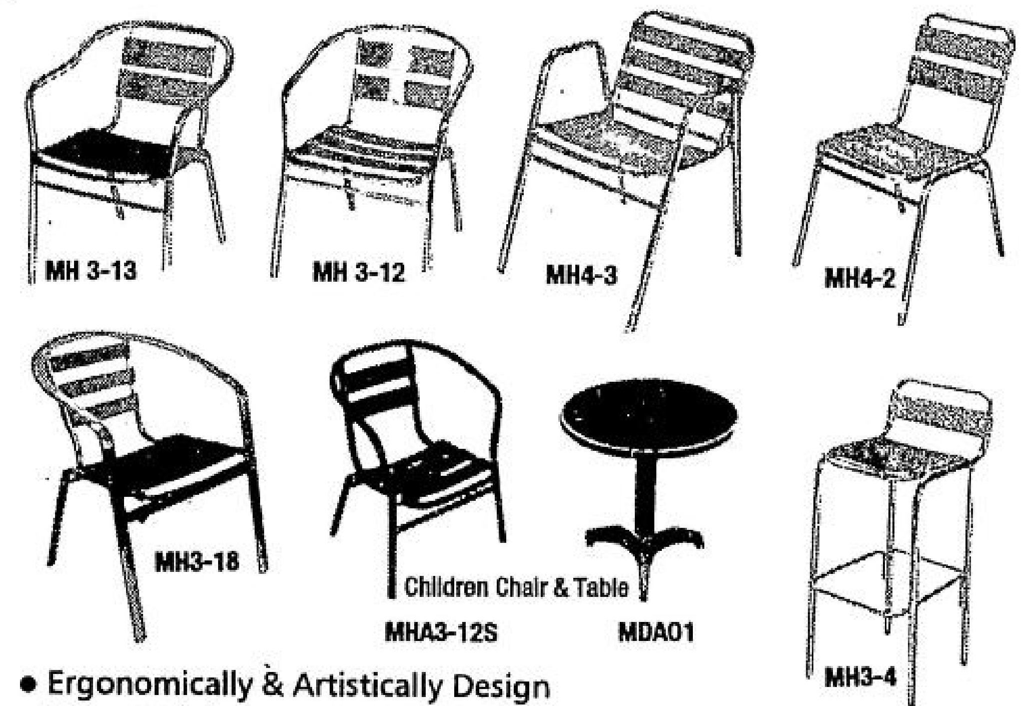
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   2) 5 units of Mitsubishi Trium
   3) 5 units of Motorola T-2288
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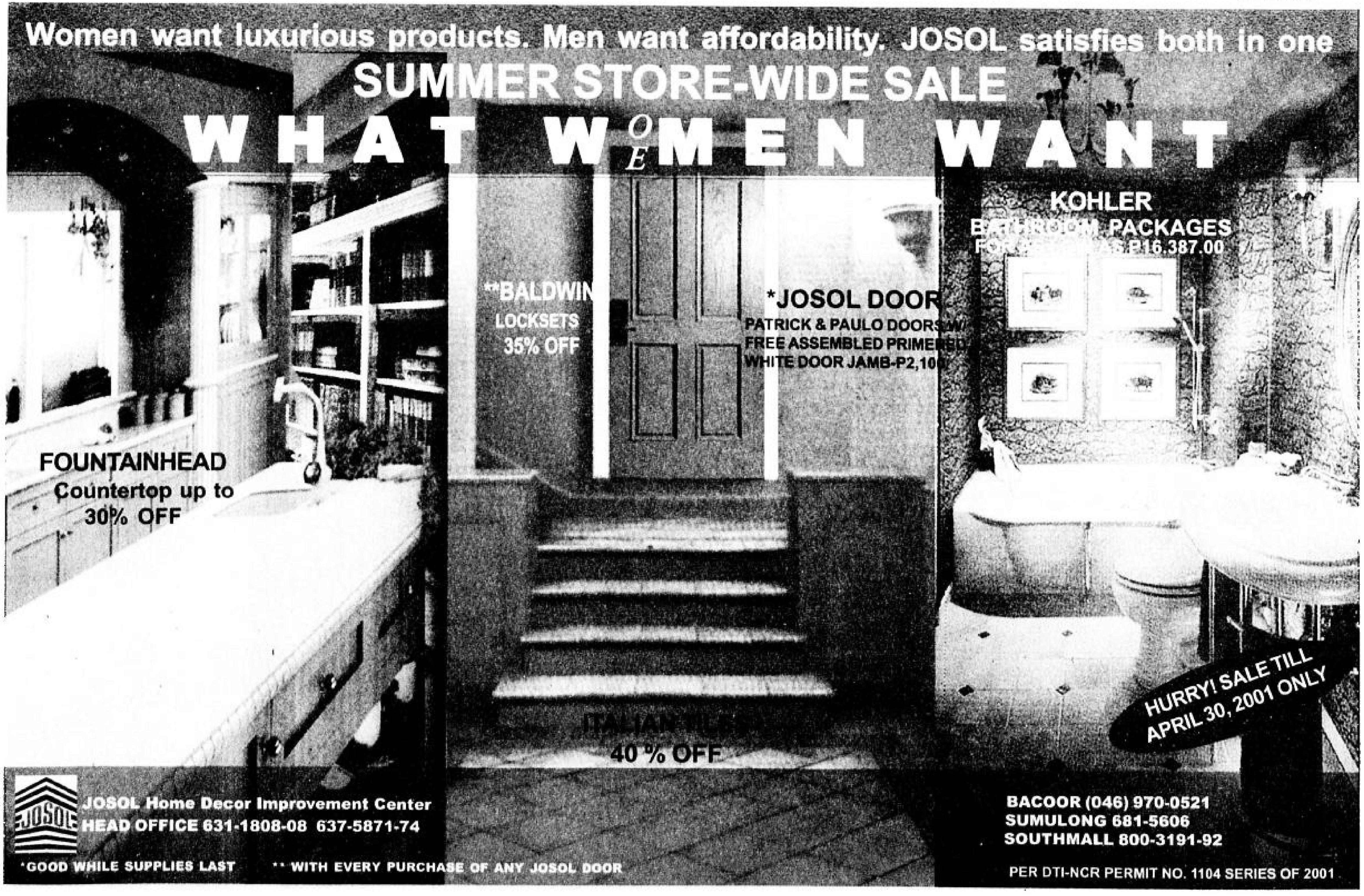
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Gun case vs Erap weak, says Comelec

By G. Lacuarta

A SENIOR official of the Commission on Elections yesterday admitted there was no strong evidence to pin down ousted President Joseph Estrada for violation of the election gun ban because the pistol that was seen in the disgraced leader's vehicle last week was not seized by authorities.

Comelec commissioner Rex Borra said the gun was needed as physical evidence to investigate and charge Estrada with violation of the Omnibus Election Code, if it turns out that the former president does not have an exemption from the election gun ban.

"The physical evidence is something you can touch and examine. If you don't have the gun, what will you prosecute when there is no evidence?" Borra said.

A newspaper photo on April 20 showed a holstered gun lying next to left foot of Estrada as he was about to alight from a van during his Taguig birthday tour. Estrada had admitted that the gun was his, but he did not say if it was covered by an exemption from the Comelec. He said it was licensed.

But Borra, echoing an earlier opinion expressed by Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo, said a mere photo could not be used as evidence to prove a violation of the election gun ban.

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Comelec may take over 29 'hot spots'

BY G. LACUARTA

AT LEAST 29 towns and cities throughout the country are set to be placed under the control of the Commission on Elections in the May 14 elections based on the list of "areas of concern" identified by the police and military.

Comelec commissioner Rex Borra said the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police have pinpointed 20 "areas of immediate concern" and 9 other "areas of concern" which the election body will likely place under its direct control on election day until the canvassing of votes.

Borra said the "areas of immediate concern" are those which have a track record of violence in previous elections, currently very strong partisan campaign resulting in violence and bloodshed, and infiltrated by rebel groups like the New People's Army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Areas of concern are localities where private armies controlled by local politicians hold sway and the elections are expected to be hotly contested.

Borra declined to identify the 29 "hot spots" pending the updates from the AFP and PNP on developments in the peace and order situation in these areas. At least 28 persons have been killed in election-related violence monitored by the Comelec. Among the fatalities were three candidates for mayor in the provinces of Albay, Agusan del Sur, and Lanao del Norte.

"We have first to coordinate with the PNP and AFP which of these areas will be placed under Comelec control," Borra said.

He hinted, however, some towns in his area of jurisdiction in Northern Luzon and Caraga region were candidates for inclusion in the watchlist of hot spots. These are in Balaoan, La Union—where a follower of a mayoral candidate was killed after another mayoral candidate was ambushed in March—and Sta. Rita, Ilocos Sur in the north; and Bayogan, Agusan del Sur and La Paz, Surigao del Norte in the Caraga.

The INQUIRER also learned that four other towns in Pangasinan have been tagged as "areas of immediate concern" and would be placed under Comelec control. These are the towns of Natividad, Tayug, Infanta and Bolinao.

Borra said there was also a request for the declaration of San Juan as a "hot spot" but he said this was unlikely because there had been no reports of election-related violence in the town, except injuries to supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada who tried to prevent his arrest at his Greenhills home.

On Feb. 13, the Comelec, in an en banc meeting, issued Resolution No. 3618 stating that it would put under its control an area where terrorism, fraud and other election irregularities in past electoral exercises had been widely committed.

Under these circumstances, the poll body shall supervise and control administrative activities and transactions made by local governments in strict compliance with the election bans.

ERRATUM

In the 3x20 ad that came out with Insular Life supplement last Monday, April 23, 2001 on page H6, the company name should have read **BUILDERS FEDERAL PHILS., INC.**

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ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS	April 28 – May 26, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM-4:00PM
SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING	April 30 – May 11, 2001	M-W-F	6:00PM-8:00PM
MODERN PURCHASING MANAGEMENT	April 28, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
PROFESSIONAL TELEPHONE SELLING	April 28, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
DYNAMICS OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	May 3 – 15, 2001	T-Th	6:00PM-9:00PM
HOW TO START A LUCRATIVE EXPORT BUSINESS	May 5 – 26, 2001	Saturday	9:00AM-12:00NN
DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE TRAINERS	May 3 – 15, 2001	T-Th	6:00PM-8:00PM
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN IMPORT BUSINESS	May 5 – 19, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
EFFECTIVE ORAL COMMUNICATION	April 30 - May 11, 2001	M-W-F	6:00PM-8:00PM
ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING	May 5, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM

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OPINION

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Eugenia D. Apostol
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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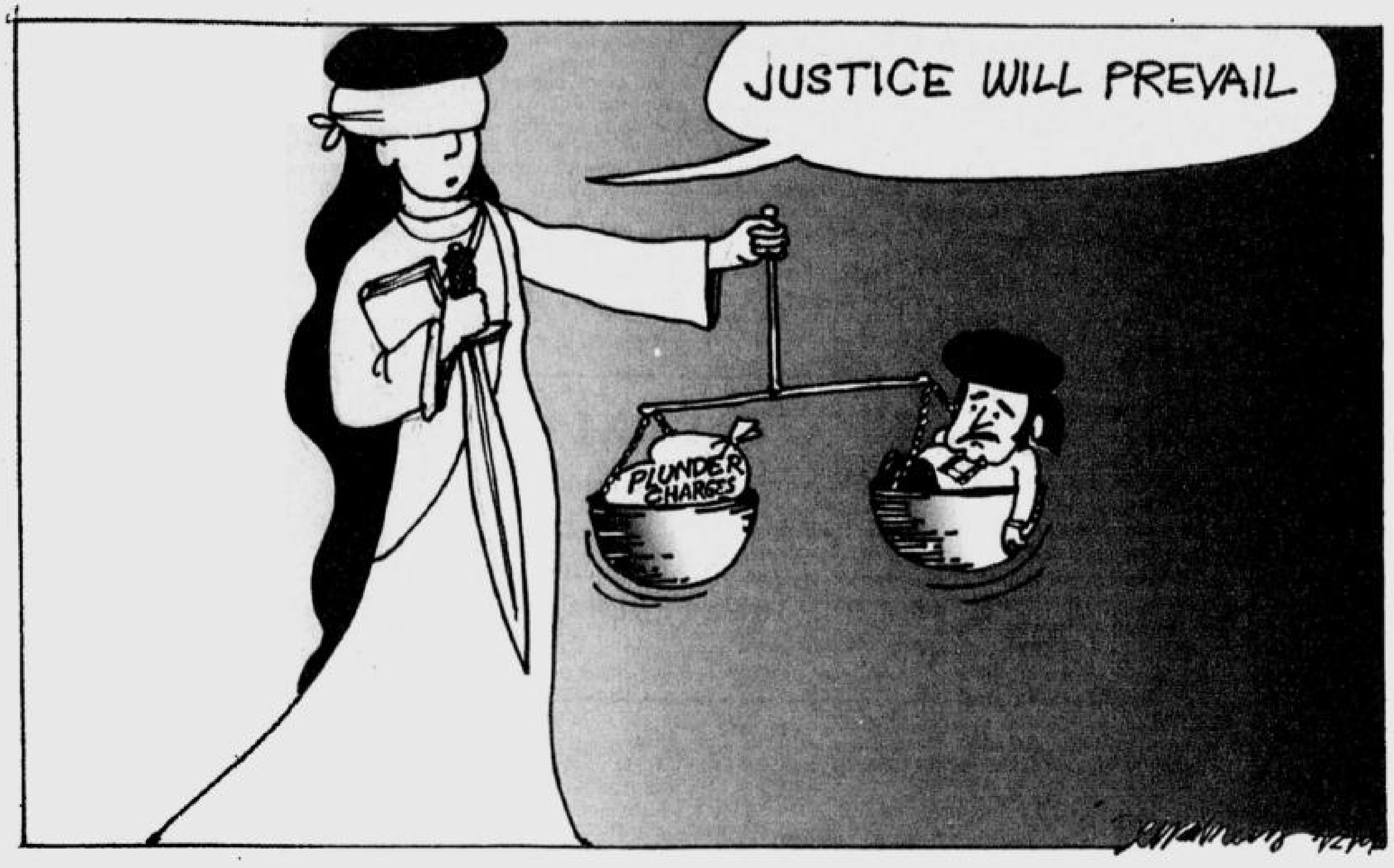


What rights?

EDITORIAL

JOSEPH Estrada, the first Filipino president to be jailed for plunder, is crying foul. "I was not given the chance to present my side before the Filipino people," he protested after his arrest Wednesday. "I strongly condemn this systematic violation of my human rights as enshrined in the Constitution."

It is a complaint his sympathizers now chant like a mantra, just as they automatically repeat Estrada's obviously deceptive campaign line, "*Erap para sa mahir*ap." The unthinking throngs which have picked up this argument can be forgiven their blind belief in their fallen idol. But how can anyone who has studied law like Sen. Miriam Santiago or former Press Secretary Ricardo Puno Jr. say this with a straight face? Santiago has been quoted as saying, "Our judicial system is biased against the accused." Puno said Estrada's arrest was "a travesty of justice." "Constitutional rights are no longer sacrosanct in this country," Puno bewailed.

It would certainly be very helpful to everyone if Estrada, Santiago and Puno could be more specific. Their followers could then have something heavier than stones to throw at the Macapagal administration. The administration, on the other hand, would know what to correct if anything really needs correcting. Those vague statements leave many people wondering exactly what constitutional rights of Estrada have been violated.

Was it his right to be informed of his charges? The Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman have not been shy about telling everyone about the cases they have filed against Estrada, among them, illegal use of alias, graft and corruption, perjury and plunder.

Was it his right to counsel? Estrada is still being represented by the same battery of lawyers that defended him during the impeachment trial in the Senate led by retired Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, although minus Estelito Mendoza but plus former Sen. Rene Saguisag, the lawyer who is serving the billionaire former president *gratis et amore*.

Was there a rush to judgment? Estrada's lawyers have gone to the Supreme Court to prevent Estrada from being charged criminally, claiming he was still the president and therefore he ought to be immune from prosecution. The Court ruled not just once but twice and by a unanimous vote of 13 justices that Estrada was no longer president. Meanwhile the prosecutors were stopped from filing the cases against him although they said they had already gathered more than enough evidence to send him to jail on several charges.

Was it his right to be given temporary liberty? Estrada and his co-accused exercised that right when they posted bail for the less serious offenses like graft, perjury and violation of the code of ethics for public officials. Every two-bit lawyer, however, knows that someone who is accused of a heinous crime like murder or plunder cannot be allowed to post bail, unless the evidence against him is weak. Government prosecutors are saying they have a strong case against Estrada. The Sandiganbayan has yet to determine whether that claim is true. In the meantime, the law says Estrada has to be put behind bars.

What Estrada and his political allies are really saying is that the disgraced leader ought to remain free while the charges against him are being heard or at the very least he should be held under house arrest. The Constitution guarantees equal protection of the law. Why should Estrada be exempt from the equal application of the law? Is it because he is a former president? But the fact that he was the country's highest officials when he violated the laws only makes his transgressions worse, not lighter. Why then should he be accorded certain privileges that are not given to others who are accused of serious offenses?

Estrada said he was ready to "face and answer the charges of those who are persecuting me." That is a reiteration of the pledge he made long before the impeachment trial began. He never got around to doing it, with his lawyers refusing to let him testify before the Senate.

Now he is again saying he wants to explain his side to the people. It is hard to imagine a better forum to present his case to the people than the hearings before the Sandiganbayan. Why doesn't he seize the opportunity by directing his lawyers to drop all the legal maneuvers they have been making to delay the trial? Better still, why doesn't he join those who have asked the court to allow live television coverage of his trial?

Shining hour, but—

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MY first reaction was jubilation. The arrest of one Joseph Estrada, ex-president and future con, for plunder, was a shining hour in ways that made even Manny Villar's brilliant coup in Congress, which began the impeachment trial, and Loren Legarda and Franklin Drilon's breaking into tears in the Senate, which sealed Erap's fate, lose some of their luster. It was a shining hour in ways that rivaled even the miracle that was ordinary Filipinos tumbling out of their homes like a flood into the streets to oust a tyrant.

In the end, we had done the seemingly impossible again. Indeed, something seemingly even more impossible than ousting a tyrant, which we have already become experts at, as some foreign observers say not without a tinge of scorn. We had taken the first step toward ousting a tyranny, a tyranny that has hounded us longer than our tyrants have. Which is our capacity to let plunderers get away in the name of compassion. Which is our capacity to let oppressors get away in the name of reconciliation.

As the dark bulletproof van that carried Erap slowly moved out of No. 1 Polk Street, an address that has almost come to signify a refuge for iniquity, flanked on all sides by heavily armed cops, I exulted that finally we had begun to do something about centuries-long corruption. We had issued the stern and luminous warning that public office, or Malacañang itself, may not house thieves. We had arrested not just any public official for plunder, we had arrested a former president for it. No, more than that, we had arrested not just a former president for plunder, we had arrested the most popular president in this country's history for it.

The drama of the moment was inescapable. Here was a man who only a couple of years ago was on top of the world, a reel-life hero his followers believed would do everything for them, a real-life heel who thought he could do anything for himself. And there he was being escorted by cops—the same cops that had formed a phalanx to protect him as head of state—to a camp where he would be fingerprinted and photographed like a common criminal.

Here was a man who only a couple of years ago had issued a movie-style warning to crooks, cronies and sycophants not to try him, "*huwag n'yo akong subukan*," he would come down on them harder than Asiong Salonga ever came down on his enemies. And there he was, Erap, Joseph Estrada, Asiong Salonga—I don't know if he would carry the same fictitious name in Muntinlupa that he did in Malacañang—now the object of those very same words uttered by an angry nation. You saw that scene and you realized that was one movie where Erap would not escape in the final reel.

That afternoon text messages were flying thick and fast, urging people to beware of an object resembling a mad cow that would be falling from the skies. But I myself saw the face not of Miriam Santiago but of Imelda Marcos. I saw her gazing at the scene, and seeing her own funeral.

That was my first reaction, jubilation. But the second one was dread.

I wasn't afraid that the crowd that massed at Greenhills would be able to mount another Edsa even if they would be able to muster the numbers for it. I wasn't afraid that they might pose any serious threat to national security, even if they would be able to fill the Edsa Shrine with their ranks. I wasn't afraid that they might spark a civil war, even if they would be able to send their lamentations to heaven. As I write this, the crowd at Edsa has swollen to hundreds of thousands. But numbers alone do not make an Edsa.

What I was afraid of was those tearful faces and figures dancing like wild tribal folk in the throes of ecstasy (which might be literal) silenced by the blow of truncheon finding their voice three weeks from now through a weapon more powerful than rock or ice pick. Which is the vote. That is the thing to really worry about, not the crowd at Edsa.

Last week, after I wrote a column suggesting that it might be a mistake to arrest Erap before the elections, I got among several letters one from a Filipino in the United States who said that as far as he was concerned, justice delayed was justice denied. Well, true, but there is another saying, which is that haste makes waste. We are not talking of one year, we are not talking of six months, we are not even talking of one month. We are talking of three weeks, which is how far off the elections are. The people who once voted for Erap are stoked to pity, rightly or wrongly, by what they saw last Wednesday, who would be left to inherit the clowns they would put in power? And if they did, what do we do—say once more with a tinge of scorn and a dash of despair that there's nothing we can do, the masses are just plain stupid, better we just pack our bags for another country?

But that is water under the bridge. I can only most sincerely hope at this point that my fears are completely unfounded.

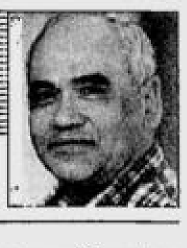
I can only hope that the crowd that massed at Polk Street and the throng that now masses at Edsa represent only themselves and not a bigger constituency out there. I can only hope that the survey last January that said 80 percent of the population believed that Erap was guilty but only 49 percent believed that he should step down was a fluke and that Filipinos do not always think in this inexplicable way. I can only hope that the legions that voted for Erap in the last elections have turned against him from a sense of betrayal and write the names of the heroes who brought him down when they sit once more in the polling booth.

I can only hope that Erap has not become an issue in the elections with his arrest. I can only hope that the voters do not see the elections as a choice between Erap and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and that they would believe Ms Macapagal when she says she had no hand in the timing of Erap's arrest, it was just the law taking its course. I can only hope most Filipino voters are past being influenced by the power of myths and images and melodrama and will see the principle of the thing. I can only hope most Filipino voters are not so easily swayed be emotional arguments about overkill, and *kawawa naman siya*, and see that justice waits for no one and must be obeyed now or never.

I can only hope we do not see grinning gargoyles after May 14 to dim the glow of the shining hour we beheld last Wednesday.

Detainees, convicts and bail

WINDMILLS



Jerry Barican

THE DETENTION of former President Estrada begins rather than ends the resolution of a series of legal issues. Many of these have already been discussed by lawyers on either side in the media. These include the nature of the crime called plunder, the admissibility or non-admissibility of any piece of evidence intended to prove that charge, whether plunder—like rebellion—is only one crime with up to multiple specifications or whether each act is a crime in itself, and so on.

But it is the detention of Mr. Estrada itself and the nature of his detention that is in itself significant. This is the first historical instance of an elected Filipino president being held—and even more notably—during the term for which he was elected. We have had former Spanish governors general imprisoned under the Residencia system, but never till now has the elected highest official in the land suffered this fate.

Some express satisfaction that such a detention heralds the promise of public accountability and equality before the law. Others are personally saddened to see an elected president reduced to such a state, whatever the circumstances. For all of us, the progress of this first instance of a plunder case leads us to new legal and political ground. If this helps the public understand concepts that have been buried in legalese, it may even herald some reform.

For those who think that all detention is the same (for instance, that of Mr. Estrada and that of Mayor Sanchez or Representative Jalosjos), a few key distinctions are in order. Mr. Estrada, like all others charged but not yet convicted, benefits from the constitutional presumption of innocence.

Legally, all such charged, with one exception, have a legal right (not a privilege but a right) to bail. The only purpose of the bail is to ensure the appearance of the accused before the court in order to face the charge. Where the charges are minor or the circumstances warrant, the law even permits an accused to be released after arrest on his own recognizance because it is confident that the accused will not flee.

The one exception to a legal right to bail involves offenses which are capital crimes, plunder being one such, where evidence of guilt is strong. Notice that even in this instance, the law does not preclude bail. It merely denies it as a matter of right to the accused but permits a court, where extraordinary circumstances exist, to grant bail. For political reasons, any court would have to be both courageous and convincing to grant bail in such cases.

In order to settle the issue of bail—including how much, if evidence of guilt is strong or not, and so forth—courts set hearings precisely for this purpose. But the matter of bail has been controversial. By setting arbitrary amounts for bail for specific crimes, the courts make a mockery of the process.

A P50,000 bail is a small amount for a rich person and will not prevent him from subsequent flight. To a vagrant, the same amount might as well be equivalent to all the gold in Fort Knox. The result is that the guilty rich can flee while an innocent poor man may rot in jail while the case is being heard. Surely, this situation cries out for reform.

However, there is a fundamental and obvious difference between all these persons and those who have already been tried and found guilty by a trial court even if their case is on appeal: unlike the latter, the former haven't been convicted yet.

If there is any issue involving Mr. Estrada's detention, it therefore surely does not involve making certain that he is detained under the same squalor we indifferently provide to all our incarcerated, whether mere detainees or convicted prisoners. Quite the reverse. Rather, it should be to urge the courts and the public to look at a jail system that is medieval, whether in penitentiaries, provincial or municipal jails, immigration cells, or detention centers.

Put simply, the entire system is patently unconstitutional for failing to meet the basic requirements of human rights which we are committed to, both under international conventions and the Constitution itself. One would have hoped that our civil society would have used this occasion to uplift the standards of an eternally neglected jail system rather than to keep on urging anyone, high or low, ought to be brought down to its squalor and humiliation.

The nature of Mr. Estrada's detention will no doubt be continuously raised by his lawyers. They will probably argue that his surrender and his repeated refusal to leave for abroad are proof positive of his full intention to make himself available to the courts. They will point out the inconsistency of the prosecutors' arguments: if the government has enough security available to ensure Mr. Estrada can't flee, how then can it object to his being detained under less harsh conditions provided he can appear before the courts? Whether the courts will agree with the lawyers or not remains to be seen.

What is certain is that this debate has uncovered all that is rotten about a detention and incarceration system that isn't just, doesn't respect human rights, doesn't serve the purposes for which it was created and has no constituency to speak up for it.

Surely, the fine minds of our society won't miss this opportunity to right these wrongs. Unless of course for them, this is just a matter involving Joseph Estrada and no other. That would be a tragedy for all of us many times over.

Will 'Erap Jr.' be arraigned today at Sandiganbayan?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

DOUBTLESS encouraged by the recent arrest of former President Estrada on orders of the Sandiganbayan on the charge of plunder, various people's organizations from Makati will motor to the graft court in Quezon City today, at 1 p.m. This time they will rally to press it to act against former Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, who is scheduled to be arraigned before that court today on charges of plunder. That is, if his lawyers don't pull out more of the delaying tricks they have been throwing over the past seven years since the cases were filed against Binay, who with 15 years in office is the longest-serving Metro Manila chief executive. Now he's running against Vice Mayor Edu Manzano to regain the post warmed for him for three years by his wife Elenita Binay.

For the Makati folk, however, it's a case of justice too long denied—the Binay case has languished without action for seven years.

* * *

Led by the "Citizens of Makati for Good Governance," a civic group advocating the return of decency and morality to public office in the financial capital, the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), the People Power for Justice Movement and the Makati Anti-Trapo Movement (Mantra), the rallyists will also include elements from militant organizations such as Sanlakas, Akbayan and Kompil II.

The Binay case is typical of the tortured way justice operates in this country. Yesterday's Manila Times front-page story reported that Binay is facing three criminal cases before the Sandiganbayan's fifth division for transactions worth over P137 million that were consummated in 1988, which allegedly utilized public funds. It took the first Ombudsman, Conrado Vasquez, several years to study and evaluate the evidence, but finally, 1994, he filed the charges with the Sandiganbayan. Binay filed a motion with the Supreme Court questioning the graft court's jurisdiction, but the high tribunal, then under chief justice and eventually Estrada lawyer Andres Narvasa, failed to act on the Binay motion for six years. When Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. assumed office, a decision came down within two months recognizing the Sandiganbayan's jurisdiction.

* * *

The Times story noted that court rules say that arraignment ought to take place within 90 days after filing of the charges. Binay's arraignment and arrest were scheduled for last October, but his lawyers succeeded in obtaining numerous postponements. The story quoted Makati Councilor Mark Joseph's claim that the Binays have accumulated over P1 billion, and looking at the breakdown, there seems a pattern to their wealth accumulation similar to that of their patron, Joseph Estrada. No wonder the irreverent Pinoy Times of Eggie Apostol calls Jojo "Erap Jr." Mark Joseph has pointed out, among the Binay wealth, a 600-hectare ultramodern, "air-conditioned (!)" piggery and farm with a market value of P600 million in Rosario, Batangas; four plush condominium units in luxurious Rockwell Center, a P30-million unit at the Twin Towers on Ayala Avenue, a Tagaytay mansion right on the ridge, a Bel-Air mansion, a Hong Kong condo with action star Jackie Chan as his neighbor and properties in Daly City, California. Lakas-PPC candidate Edu Manzano and his "Clean Team," which includes Melon Recto-Silverio, candidate for Congress in Makati's first district, hold nightly caucuses where they show slide projections about all kinds of alleged Binay deals with fat kickbacks. The problem is that these accusations have not been satisfactorily rebutted by Binay.

Will he be arraigned today or will he again prove slippery to justice? This depends on the fifth division led by Justice Minita V. Chico-Nazario.

* * *

I can understand Sen. Miriam Santiago's loyalty to the deposed President Estrada; after all, he gave her long jobless husband a respectable job at the DILG. But it's difficult to understand the blind loyalty of legal luminaries Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and former Sen. Edgardo Angara, both running in the Puwersa ng Masa. Not only are these two supposed to be ace lawyers—Enrile is perhaps one of our smartest lawyers—but they know so well the Anti-Plunder Act under which Estrada is now charged. This was because, as former Senate President Jovito Salonga points out recently, Enrile and Angara were both signatories to the Act filed in the Senate on Aug. 18, 1988 and signed into law by President Aquino on July 12, 1991. Enrile was even a member of the Senate panel in the bicameral conference committee on that bill, together with now Interior Secretary Joey Lina.

Now Enrile is inciting people to a revolution, as though Erap were innocent but being persecuted by President Macapagal. But after hearing all the documented evidence on Erap's shenanigans in the Senate impeachment trial, including the very elaborate bank paper trail, it's difficult to think that in Enrile's heart of hearts he does not believe Erap is guilty of plunder.

* * *

What's interesting is that the Anti-Plunder Act involves key personalities very much around. Salonga authored it with his nephew, Rene Saguisag, now Estrada's lead lawyer; now Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, now Vice President Teofisto Guingona, former Defense Chief Orly Mercado and Rep. Wigberto Tañada as co-authors. Tañada, now running for senator under the PPC, sponsored the bill as chair of the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws, while Salonga presided over the debates and deliberations. In the House the counterpart measure was introduced by Rep. Lorna Verano-Yap and sponsored by Rep. Tet Garcia.

The Anti-Plunder Act, which obviously was a reaction of Congress to the wholesale plunder of the Marcos regime, was well discussed, the product of the best minds of that time. Three former law deans participated in its deliberations, namely, Salonga, Neptali Gonzales (who taught political law and constitutional law), and several law professors, including Enrile. It was unanimously passed in the Senate, with no abstention. As noted earlier here, one of the signatories was Sen. Joseph Estrada.

Uncivil leadership

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A FRIEND who was at the Edsa Shrine Wednesday night, as the area in front of the Shrine filled up with frustrated Erap supporters, tells of her encounter with one of "Erap's own."

Spotting her standing by the church door, a male Erap supporter shouted at her: "*Hoy, kilala kita! Isa ka sa mga mayayaman! Mag-ingat kayo! Narito na kami!* (Hey, I know you! You're one of the rich! All of you better watch out! We're here!)"

Indeed, by their actions you shall know them. The minute the Erap supporters descended on the Shrine, they started desecrating the walls, painting pro-Erap slogans and even spray-painting the plaque marking the Shrine as "Holy Ground" of People Power, which was installed with much solemnity during the last People Power I anniversary. Some clambered to the top level of the Shrine's multi-tiered platforms and began pounding on the stained glass windows, prompting some Shrine lay workers to shout at them to stop it as they could break the glass and even injure themselves. Those at the People Power II gathering pride themselves that despite so many things that could have gone wrong, there was not a single instance of violence at the Shrine. This time, rowdiness and hooliganism seems to be the hallmark of this pathetic attempt at recreating the magic of those days in January. Media folk covering the protests have already reported how they were hit, pummeled, harassed and threatened by the pro-Erap protesters. They're spoiling for a fight, all right, and the really sad thing is that none of their leaders, beginning with their ex-president-in-jail, seems interested in averting the violence. Instead, they seem to be fomenting it, glorying at how the unruly elements are frightening decent folk.

Civil disobedience? Uncivil leadership, is more like it.

* * *

FEEDING almost 400 people for dinner—when you had prepared for only 200—is no joke, but Nerissa Soon-Ruiz, candidate for representative of the 6th District of Cebu, is unfazed by the prospect. A former two-term legislator, Soon-Ruiz took a sabbatical from politics after she ran and lost for mayor of her native Mandaue City in 1998. But "Inday Nerry," as her constituents know her, took advantage of this period to act as a "fulltime mother" to her young children. Trust a woman to find a positive spin to even the hardest blows in life.

As a representative, Soon-Ruiz was especially supportive of women's causes. A medical doctor by training, she is also all too aware that women's health issues need to be addressed by means beyond the usual clinical approaches. For this reason, she continues to support Bantay Banay, a movement which promotes community-based approaches to violence against women, spearheaded by Lihok-Pilipina.

Soon-Ruiz heads the line-up of the Alayon Party in Cebu, which is also fielding incumbent Vice Governor Nanding Celeste for governor and John-john Osmeña, son of Sen. Sonny Osmeña, for vice governor. Soon-Ruiz is running against incumbent Rep. Efren Herrera, who is running under the Abag-Promdi party, the official standard bearer in Cebu of the People Power Coalition. Abag-Promdi is backing incumbent Gov. Pablo Garcia who is running for reelection, with Celestino Martinez for vice governor. Martinez is the husband of Clavell Asas Martinez, the only woman on the impeachment prosecution panel, who is running for reelection.

* * *

ANOTHER woman candidate worth supporting is Ma. Gracia Cielo "Grace" Padaca, who is running for Congress in the 3rd District of Isabela. Padaca is facing formidable odds, as she is up against Faustino Dy, a scion of the powerful Dy clan which has dominated Isabela politics for decades.

Disabled after being afflicted with polio when she was three, Padaca rose above her disability, becoming a radio commentator for Bombo Radyo in the Cagayan Valley for 14 years. So popular was she that she soon earned the nickname "Bombo Grace." As a woman in media, she incurred the wrath of a government official when she took up the cudgels for a young rape survivor. Thrown into jail on charges of libel, Padaca was released after her radio station embarked on a "piso-piso" campaign to raise money for her bail. She recently resigned her broadcasting job to practice her profession as an accountant, but heeded the call of public service to challenge one family's dominance of Isabela politics. Call her bid foolhardy, but it's the sort of risk-taking that people need to take in heeding the call for "new" politics.

* * *

IN BAGUIO, another woman candidate worth considering is Virginia "Jeannie" Lim, who is running for the Baguio city council under the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP-PDP-Laban-Kampi-IBA ticket. She is running together with Dr. Nini Rusgal, a friend and fervent Abanse! Pinay supporter of whom I had written earlier.

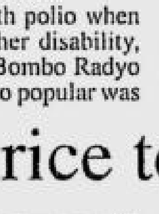
Though she came to know of Abanse! Pinay only recently, and without anyone needing to make a request, Lim carries Abanse! Pinay in her flyers and other campaign materials, in type that is even bigger than her name. Lim is still single and an advocate of women's advancement and rights. She is a Doctor of Education (Educational Management), holds a Masters of Laws in Taxation and is the founder of the Lady Lawyers of Baguio and Benguet. I do hope Baguio's voters consider voting into the city council two women of top-notch quality: "Doc Nini" Rusgal, a long-time educator and civic leader; and Jeannie Lim, lawyer and fighter for women's rights.

There is another woman of quality running for local office in Baguio. She's Lulu Tabanda, a three-term councilor who is running for vice mayor but with another ticket. She gets my personal endorsement if only for her many years of support for women's causes. And of course, voters shouldn't forget former La Trinidad Mayor Edna Tabanda (she's an aunt-in-law of Lulu) who is running for Benguet vice governor with incumbent Gov. Raul Molintas. "Mayor Edna" is chair of the Abanse! Pinay Baguio-Benguet chapter.

Nuances of other rice terms

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



WE all know that after rice is planted there is a long wait to harvest time. What I did not know was that there were so many Tagalog words compiled in the 17th century that deal with the various stages in the growth of rice. When the head of rice enlarged (*butikas* or *botica* which we take to mean drugstores today) on the stalk (*turo*), it was a step before it broke out (*basag*) and began to sprout (*baslay*). When the stalk reached the diameter of an index finger it was called *Catoro* the same word used to describe three-month-old rice. Other terms for early rice: *Carato, Auna, Dali*, or *Paaga*. From the root words alone: *una* (first), *aga* (early) and *dali* (hurried) we can imagine rice racing to sprout. *Dumali* and *macapat* was four month old rice different from late rice or *Pahuli*.

Farmers four centuries ago had no distractions like TV, radio, movies or trips to a mall which made him observant and sensitive to every stage in the growth of his crops. There was a point when rice in blossom developed something resembling the morning dew we find in our eyes (*maymota*). There was a time when the stalks were a certain shade of green and its sap milky (*mangagatas*). While I admit there is a specialized vocabulary for every profession, going through the rice terms in old dictionaries was a great way for this urban couch potato to confront his ignorance.

After the harvest the rice is examined. Rice half-dead from drought (*Cogo*) was put aside. The same was true for *Bayoquin* or rice that does not fruit well. This word caught my eye because a similar word *bayoguin* was the pre-colonial transvestite or gay. A *bayoguin* was "a man with two natures" who like this type of rice did not sprout or bear children. *Calahan* (dirty half rotten rice), *Balangauan* (rice that got wet and turned black), *Oar* (rice eaten by rats) were separated from the harvest that was arranged into neat piles (*salansan*) and prepared for husking and milling. There were different terms for these piles of rice: *Timbon* (generic term for rice pile whether threshed or unthreshed), *Sipok, Sinipoc*, or *Pongpong* (small pile of rice); *Mandala* (pile of rice for threshing) and terms for husked and milled rice.

Bayo was the pounding of rice with mortar (*losong*) and pestle. Even the blows given in this process had a specific word, asoc, and perhaps even the sound has a term. Today, judging from its usage in the tabloids, *bayo* is the vulgar term for masturbation. The *baloyot* or *baluyut* is used again. Although described as a basket I presume this was round like a *bilao* where rice is tossed to separate the husks (*darac*). Thus, a *padaracan* was a *bilao* for this process. *Baluyut* today is not a basket but a common Pampanga surname. Aside from *darac* the other waste product in this process is *Dayami* (rice straw). *Bigas* is then kept in granaries known as *amabong* and *baysa*.

Now we go to the next step, turning the *bigas* into *sinaing* (boiled rice) or *canin*. I used to think *quilao* (as in *quinilao*) was only used for raw fish cooked without fire (pickled actually)in vinegar. *Quilao* in 17th century Tagalog meant cooking rice slowly in water, a rather rare word unlike *Saing* which is putting rice over a fire. In these days of rice cookers we hardly burn rice so the words *Agom* and *Alimpuyoc* have fallen into disuse. Even the smell of burning rice, *angi*, has practically disappeared from our experience and vocabulary. When I was a boy I remember my mother raising eyebrows in other homes by asking for *tutong* or the burned rice. For many hosts it was embarrassing to serve something scraped from the bottom of the pot as it suggested that one did not prepare enough rice for the guests, or at least did not know how to cook rice properly. *Tutong* was often deemed fit only for the servants, but the rice cooker has changed all that. Rice is cooked evenly and no more *tutong*.

One of the challenges to my parent's marriage was canin. My father preferred his wet and soggy, while my mother wanted it dry and easy to separate on a plate (*bohaghag*). Like most Filipinos my mother mistrusted the one cup rice to two cups water ratio rather she measured the water level on a pot with the lines on the palm-side of her fingers. To avoid quarrels over the rice she tilted the *kaldero* on the stove to produce both soft and *buhaghag* rice. If her spoiled Kapampangan husband made a scene he ate canned goods alone.

Both terms for frying—*sangag* and *bosa*—were linked to rice. More specific were *balantogui* which was left-over or precooked rice that was dried in the sun and later fried or refried. I wonder if the old Filipinos added sugar and made this into a sweet I remember from my childhood. *Binolaclac* from its root word *bulaklak* described fried or toasted rice that burst to resemble blossoms. The list of rice terms is long enough to fill 10 more columns so I think I should end here. I only used old Tagalog dictionaries, can you imagine what rice terms await research in the other Philippine languages? These words simply demonstrate how central life is to Philippine life and emphasizes that rice shows us what we were, what we are and what we can be.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

13-0? Impossible

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

MANY people will apparently vote 13-0 in favor of the People Power Coalition senatorial slate. But not enough to shut out the Puwersa ng Masa or independents.

In coffee-shop-type or over-the-*bakod* chitchat, many people threaten to kick Joseph Estrada's arse further by voting solidly for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's bets. "It's a vote of protest," they announce with a devilish glint in their eyes. Not necessarily as a vote in support of Ms Macapagal, but as their own version of sticking out their middle finger at Estrada.

Erap has become the guy people love to hate. When people talk about Erap these days, the air fills up with oaths our mothers never thought we knew.

But still, a 13-0 outcome on May 14 is unlikely. It's just not probable.

In fact, with former newscaster Noli de Castro, an independent, leading the surveys, 13-0 is just not possible. The best Ms Macapagal's PPC can hope for is 12-1. It would snow first in hell before the PPC can make a clean sweep. The chances of Cory Aquino kissing and making up with Juan Ponce Enrile are better than the PPC garnering a 13-0 (although I wouldn't take the same chances against Kris making up with Philip).

In my case, in the event of a 13-0, all we have to lose is Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. That would be a spectacle. Reelectionist Santiago must be doing her nightly Hail Marys with extra diligence, lest she finds herself in a firing squad's sight on May 15 (how's that for optimism about a quick vote count?).

Santiago can relax. There's no way the PPC can bagel (that's a tennis term for zero; "bagel" is an unleavened doughnut-shaped bread that originated from the Jewish people) the opposition.

So, with 13-0 being a virtual impossibility, where does that put President Macapagal? By wishing for and predicting a 13-0 bottom line, Ms Macapagal has painted herself into a corner. What would she say when the tally is less than the 13-0 she craves for and crows about? How would she explain that? Will that be taken against her, that she's no magic-weaver after all, that with all her newfound power and moxie, her political armor is not so impregnable?

Actually, she had no choice but to call for, and even predict 13-0. Naturally, she had to bat for all her candidates. But even she and the PPC campaign managers, in their moments of candor, were realistic enough to expect a below-100 batting average.

Did she and the people running the campaign not have a choice but to boldly predict a sweep? A humbler approach probably would have been a better and safer tack. Something to the effect that the people are the ultimate judge of the PPC 13's fate and that the President was leaving that judgment to the people. Humility never hurt anyone while brashness, as we all know, is a big turn-off for Filipinos.

There are noticeable signs that humility is not one of the guiding virtues of this administration. People are beginning to notice how Ms Macapagal has changed in her demeanor. "*Parang yumabang*," is a comment I'm hearing more and more. Some people have even noticed that the President doesn't simply walk these days, that rather she walks with a noticeable swagger now.

Her treatment sometimes of reporters is disturbing. She still cuts off questions with dismissive monosyllabic answers and simply refuses to elaborate even when the questioner expects more.

Toward the end of a recent press conference, while a Cabinet member was responding to a question, the President started to laugh, a loud laugh, and continued to do so even as she started to leave. What she was laughing at, we can't tell. But that's not only rude, it's insulting. It's not presidential, a veteran journalist commented to me.

A journalist-turned-PR practitioner friend of mine, an astute observer of politics, warns that Ms Macapagal may be in for rough times in the not-too-far future. "*Nandiyan pa si Erap, kaya wala pang maraming umaatake kay Gloria*," he notes. Once Estrada is out of the picture, the slings and arrows will start flying Ms Macapagal's way, according to this scenario. The President would do well to take note.

But back to 13-0. The same friend of mine says he'll vote 13-0 as a matter of principle. But there has to be an opposition for democracy to work, I pleaded. Don't worry he says, there will be. With independent-minded people like Joker Arroyo, Frank Drilon and Ernesto Herrera, there will always be an opposition. Hmm. These people may be their own men, but they're not what I would call opposition.

Unfortunately for the opposition, many of their senatorial bets aren't exactly stellar caliber. Some of them are proven mischievous elements, like Enrile, in Philippine politics. And some were too closely identified with Erap. Enrile knows he'll never be president so he just content himself with delightfully, as the British say, throwing a spanner in the works.

Whether we like it or not, the May 14 elections will be a referendum on Erap and Ms Macapagal. Would an outcome, say 10-3 or 9-4 for the PPC, be seen as an ambivalent, lukewarm endorsement of Ms Macapagal's leadership? Or worse, would it be interpreted that her grip on power is not so firm? How would a less-than 13-0 verdict affect Ms Macapagal the rest of the way?

We hope to find out after May. One thing is certain, 13-0 simply is not possible. The law of averages is against it.

* * *

From one spokesperson to another. We wish Bobi Tiglao success in his new job as spokesperson for the President. We shall miss Bobi at Butch Millena's Thursday group of friends from the communications media. A spokesperson's job is a hot seat. When things go wrong, the guys on top accuse you of not doing your job. When things go right, the guys on top take all the credit. Bobi (and other friends in the Malacañang Press Office), we hope you will understand, when we write critically about your corner of the world, that it's nothing personal. Remember that when Erap and his band of marauders were occupying your space. I also tried to point out his weaknesses and shortcomings even though one of his siblings was a friend and respected colleague of mine.

Leandro V. Coronel is a former spokesperson of the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

THEY SAID

Language of the uneducated

"That is just the language of people who are uneducated and angry."

—Sen. Franklin Drilon on the heckling by some people during their campaign

Roadblock

"They say the best way to make anything not work is to form a committee."

—President Macapagal-Arroyo, emphasizing that only the Presidential Commission on Good Government would have the sole responsibility to look into Irene Marcos-Araneta's alleged loot

Fooling Christians

"Playing gods, they want to create a Jesus whom they can 'sell' to gullible Christians."

—Theology professor Rev. Luna Dingayen on plans to clone Jesus for his second coming

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Santiago's and Enrile's pathetic threats

OPPOSITION senatorial bets Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile's call for civil disobedience to protest what they claimed as "denial of justice" and "political harassment" of ousted President Estrada is nothing more than a pathetic attempt of the two to gain some attention from the media and the public.

For one, as supposed experts of the Constitution and the law, they know that the arrest order was precisely justice in action. The road for Estrada's redemption or conviction must begin with an arrest and incarceration. There's no way around that.

To Enrile's threat to "lead a revolution if the Macapagal administration continues to politically harass Estrada's camp and the political opposition," I say: go ahead and do your worst. In 1986, you tearfully begged for Jaime Cardinal Sin to rescue you from the impending arrest. Your tail was between your legs then, I don't think it would be any different now when the real People Power unleashes its might on you and Estrada's pathetic paid hooligans.

As for Santiago's claim that the arrest order betrayed bias against Estrada, I say go back to law school. You don't have to finish a law degree to know that as soon as a probable cause is proven from a verified complaint, an arrest order must be issued and served.

Of course, Santiago's positioning as Estrada's unofficial champion is understandable considering that after she's been disowned by her erstwhile solid supporters (the students and the Ilonggos) as a consequence of the not-to-open-the-envelope vote, she's down to the few rabid, unthinking, undiscerning Estrada loyalists whom she previously spat at as "worms" as probable voters.

With the way she's behaving (including another threat to commit suicide if Estrada is arrested), the tagline "champion of the Constitution" should be changed to "champion *ng* mental institution." But the inmates there might consider it a collective insult.—**ED DAMES, 24/F The Enterprise Center Tower 2, 6766 Ayala Ave., cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

Why give Erap preferential treatment?

AS a former citizen of the Philippines I'm deeply embarrassed with the preferential treatment being planned for Estrada.

I'm deeply saddened at how the government of the Philippines has planned to accord him the best accommodation possible. He may have been a former president of the country, but did he ever think of putting the welfare of his countrymen above his own? No ordinary Filipino have ever been placed in a prison cell as described in your report. What makes him so special to deserve such accommodations? Did he bribe somebody? Perhaps, the government should try placing him in the worst facility in the country. That might even do him some good.—**TERRY FOREMAN tdforemanis@ home.com**

Insulting to OFWs

I REFER to the letter of Ms Concepcion B. Banaag (PDI, 4/21/01) titled "Overseas Filipinos shackled by ignorance."

I am just one of the more than a million Filipinos working abroad. I was saddened by Ms Banaag's claim that majority of us are "ignorant and inadequately enlightened about the issues back home." And if she will have her way, overseas Filipinos shouldn't be allowed to vote. Let me remind Ms Banaag—that the right to suffrage is enshrined in the Philippine Constitution, and that this right is not only for the rich and the well informed.

Yes, I agree with you when you say that poverty has put shackles on our minds. The very same shackles that reminds us to be thankful for whatever things we have at the moment.

The advent of the Internet and the wonders of cable TV enable us to be in touch with what's happening not only in the Philippines but around the world as well. My day won't be fulfilled if I won't be able to log on to INQUIRER's website. I share my countrymen's anger when the 11 senators blocked the opening of the second envelope which prove the existence and ownership of the Velarde account. And I also jump with joy when Erap left the palace.

I may or may not be able to vote in three years time. But the thought that the government is doing something to hear our voices, is good enough to know that we are not forgotten in the first place. In the meantime, I can only pray and hope that all Filipinos, whether in the country or overseas, are going to use their vote wisely and maturely whenever given the chance.

We have suffered long enough. If we keep on repeating the same mistakes, we don't deserve a better world.—**JOJO S. PANGAN, Jurong East, Singapore**

Erap's economic policies remain

AT THE MONTHLY meeting of the Kapihan sa Klub at Club Filipino last April 26, in which National Labor Relations Commission chair Roy Seneres was the guest speaker, somebody asked why more than three months after Joseph Estrada's fall the economy is not yet on the recovery track. Specifically, he asked why the peso, on the day following Estrada's arrest, is still falling in relation to the dollar.

I volunteered to answer the question. Although Estrada has been deposed, I said, the economic policies which he pursued—policies he inherited from President Fidel V. Ramos—are still intact. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo replaced Estrada but not Estrada's globalization-driven policies. Those policies cannot be removed together with Estrada because they are not Estrada's. The policies of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, our economy's supervisors since 1963.

No question about it. Based on what we know, mainly as a result of the aborted impeachment trial, Estrada ought to be arrested and jailed. But the state of our economy is determined by the economic policies our country pursues, not by Estrada's status.—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, senior consultant, Inciong and Associates, Unit 30 Union Square Condominium 145, 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City**

Remember this day

APRIL 25, 2001 will be a day forever remembered in Philippine history. A day when the wheels of justice suddenly came alive when the warrant of arrest was effected by the law on a living former president of the land. It was a day when law enforcers suddenly regained their shine, a day ordinary upright Filipino citizens will long commit in their hearts and minds its singular lesson: no man is above the law. And that lady justice spares no one, not even a person who once served as the highest officer of the land. A person who once bragged that he will catch the big fish.

Defiant until his last hours as a free man, all he knew was that he was elected into office by 10 million voters, but knowingly omitted the disrespect he did to these voters and to the very office he was sworn in to.

But on April 25, 2001, all Filipino were privy to the drama of justice being served on a person whose time had run out. On this day he would remember and regret not having heeded his father's wise counsel during his formative years. A day when all his money, influence and a coterie of the country's so-called brightest lawyers surrounding him could do him no good.

Surprisingly, all of the daily newspapers missed out the biggest irony. It would have been fitting to see a banner headline: We have caught the biggest fish of them all.

Onward, I feel empowered, confident that we Filipinos as a people, have regained our courage and our will to do what is right: jail a crooked leader, a fitting penultimate closure of a troubled political litmus test on the road to political and economic maturity.

I say no special favors to any one. Not even to a former president.—**CARLOS A. BALDAGO II, Bacoor, Cavite**

Ending Santiago's bizarre promises

IS anybody keeping track of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's election promises? They are becoming more bizarre as May 14 approaches.

First, she has threatened civil unrest and Edsa III if former President Joseph Estrada were charged in court for plunder. Is that motley and *hakot* crowd at Greenhills Edsa III?

Then Santiago offered to have herself shot at the Luneta if the People Power Coalition senatorial candidates won 13-0. Some ask why don't they shoot Santiago now for suppressing evidence in the impeachment trial.

Now Santiago offers to jump out of the plane without a parachute if Estrada is arrested. I attended Harvard University summer school in 1963. Harvard then did not offer courses in skydiving. Did I miss something?

Will the flight attendants please accommodate the lady senator and open the nearest airplane emergency door? That way the flood of bizarre promises will end.—**JUAN L. MERCADO, Press Foundation of Asia, Manila**

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Koizumi vows change, names record 5 women to Cabinet

TOKYO—Populist maverick Junichiro Koizumi was elected prime minister by Japan's Parliament yesterday, storming to power on promises to reform the stumbling economy and overhaul the country's hidebound ruling party.

The vote in Parliament's powerful lower house capped Koizumi's remarkable—and resounding—defeat of the conservative old-guard to win control of the Liberal Democratic Party. The upper house then confirmed his election in a largely ceremonial vote.

The Parliament vote came after his predecessor, Yoshiro Mori, and the Cabinet resigned en masse, bringing an end to a year-old scandal-riddled government widely blamed for failing to repair the troubled economy and driving the appeal of the ruling party to record lows.

Koizumi bolted up from his seat in triumph as his victory was announced in Parliament, bowing his trademark shaggy, salt-and-pepper mane to his colleagues in thanks.

The new premier immediately made good on promises of a break-the-mold government, naming a record five women to the 17-member Cabinet, including the outspoken and popular Makiko Tanaka as foreign minister—the first woman to hold the post. Women also held portfolios for justice, education, land and transportation, and environment.

Tanaka, the daughter of a former premier, has been repeatedly singled out in polls as Japan's most popular politician. Still, she has little top-level experience, having headed only the Science and Technology Agency.

Tanaka's presence in the Cabinet was expected to enhance Koizumi's popularity.

"They will be a good team," said Keiko Hasegawa, a 53-year-old housewife. "I hope they can clean up the politics."

Other picks included fiscal conservative Masajuro Shiokawa, 79, to the important finance minister post, and Yasuo Fukuda, 64, as chief Cabinet secretary, the post he had under Mori. Nobuteru Ishihara, the son of Tokyo Gov. Shintaro Ishihara, was named minister for administrative reform.

Koizumi, a former health minister, takes the helm of an economy trapped in an 11-year morass of high unemployment and feeble performance. The Bank of Japan announced on Thursday that growth this fiscal year would not reach 1 percent—lower than the government has forecast. *AP*

REFORMER Junichiro Koizumi is applauded by fellow parliamentarians after being elected prime minister of Japan at the Diet in Tokyo April 26. REUTERS

China furious over Bush pledge

BEIJING—China expressed strong indignation yesterday over President George W. Bush's promise to defend Taiwan against Chinese attack and warned the US leader he was moving into dangerous territory.

Bush went further than any US president in two decades by pledging Wednesday to do "whatever it took" to help Taiwan defend itself, including the use of US military forces.

Although he later qualified the remarks and said there was no change in the US policy of "strategic ambiguity" over whether US forces would deploy to defend Taiwan, China was clearly alarmed by Bush's tough talk.

The remarks came just one day after Bush angered China by approving the sale of the most significant arms package to Taiwan since 1992 to counter China's build-up of weaponry targeting the island.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhang Qiyue said no foreign country had the right to act as a "protectorate" for the island.

"It shows that the US side has drifted further on a dangerous road," Zhang told reporters when asked to comment on Bush's remarks.

"As to comments made by President Bush, we have expressed that the Chinese government and people are strongly indignant and opposed to them," she added.

Despite more than 50 years of de facto independent rule China considers Taiwan a breakaway province that must be brought back under its rule, preferably through peaceful means but by force if necessary.

Since Washington switched diplomatic relations from Taipei to Beijing in 1979, in the process recognizing China's territorial claim over Taiwan, US governments have trodden a highly sensitive line between the two sides.

Under the Taiwan Relations Act, the United States is obliged to sell Taiwan enough weapons to defend itself but it has deliberately shied away from committing US forces to defend the island.

After Bush's strong comments on ABC television, the White House insisted there was no change to the official US policy of "strategic ambiguity" and the US leader later struck a more conciliatory tone. *AFP*

Blast kills 4 Palestinians

JERUSALEM—Extra police and soldiers were patrolling cities and vacation spots yesterday, on Israel's Independence Day, because of concern over Palestinian attacks a day after four Palestinian police officer died in a bomb blast in Gaza.

The bomb exploded Wednesday near Rafah on the Egyptian border, but the circumstances were unclear. Palestinian police commander Ghazi Jibali said Palestinians working for Israeli intelligence planted three bombs, and police defused two, but the third exploded.

Four police officers died and six other people were wounded, hospital officials said.

However, a group associated with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement gave another version of the blast. A spokesperson for the Popular Resistance group said its members, who are also police, were going to plant a bomb to stop Israeli tanks when the Israelis ambushed them with a bomb of their own.

The Israeli military said it knew nothing of the incident.

Because of a wave of bomb attacks in Israeli cities by Palestinian extremists, Israeli police reinforced by soldiers patrolled crowded places in unusually large numbers. Israeli leaders called on their people to overcome concerns for their safety and celebrate independence day as they usually do—with picnics in nature spots and gatherings on beaches—but warned them to be on the lookout for suspicious objects and people.

Israeli officials spoke of easing restrictions on the Palestinians if seven months of violence wanes.

One proposal being considered is to use the desert oasis town of Jericho as a model, removing travel restrictions and encouraging business there to return to normal, said an Israeli official, requesting anonymity.

But until after the holiday, crossing points between Israel and the Palestinian territories were to be closed to prevent attacks, the military said. There were also restrictions at border crossings between Gaza and Egypt and between the West Bank and Jordan. The extra limitations were to be lifted at 2 a.m. Friday.

The holiday, marking Israel's 53rd birthday, started with an abrupt transition from the memorial day for soldiers who died in Israel's wars. Soldiers in formation at the Mt. Herzl military cemetery passed symbolic flags from one unit to another, and somber music gave way to fireworks as the festivities began. *AP*

Annan to unveil UN action plan vs AIDS

ABUJA—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan arrived in the Nigerian capital of Abuja Wednesday, on a eve of a two-day mega summit where he is to unveil a five-point action plan for combating AIDS and the spread of HIV.

UN deputy secretary general, Louise Frechette, said Tuesday in New York that prevention was one of five priorities for action which Annan would spelled out to the AIDS summit on Thursday.

Annan is also expected to discuss the need for a global fund to help developing countries build the infrastructure to bring treatment to people with AIDS.

"In recent months there has been a proliferation of initiatives and recommendations, from governments, from private foundations and academics," Frechette told reporters.

"There is a need for some clarity to be brought to the key things we should be focussing on, as well as a push for resources," she added.

The summit, which will be attended by former US president Bill Clinton and nearly 50 African heads of state, will also deal other killer diseases on the African continent: malaria and tuberculosis.

Annan is also expected to focus on specifically African aspects of AIDS.

The UN AIDS agency estimates that 70 percent of the world's HIV cases, or 24.5 million people, live in sub-Saharan Africa—home to only some 10 percent of the global population. *AFP*

Rescuers conclude historic South Pole flight

WASHINGTON—A joint US-Canadian rescue team concluded its historic winter flight to the South Pole late Wednesday, safely landing a plane carrying a sick US doctor at a British research station at the edge of Antarctica, the US National Science Foundation announced.

"I've just got e-mail, saying they have arrived," an jubilant Peter West, spokesperson for the NSF, said. "We can say that the most difficult part of the mission is now behind them."

The Twin Otter plane with Ronald Shemenski, a nurse and three crew landed at Rothera Research Station on Adelaide Island off the Antarctic Peninsula at 8:52 p.m. after a 2,080-km flight from US Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station.

"Everything went smoothly," West said, "but I simply don't have anything more right now about the details of the flight."

The mission represented a milestone in the history of Antarctica's exploration since no pilot had attempted to reach the South Pole after the onset of dark polar winter and make it back before to this week, said US scientists.

The pilots had to brave darkness, gale force winds and temperatures as low as minus 63 degree Celsius—only a few degrees higher than the freezing point for the Twin Otter engine.

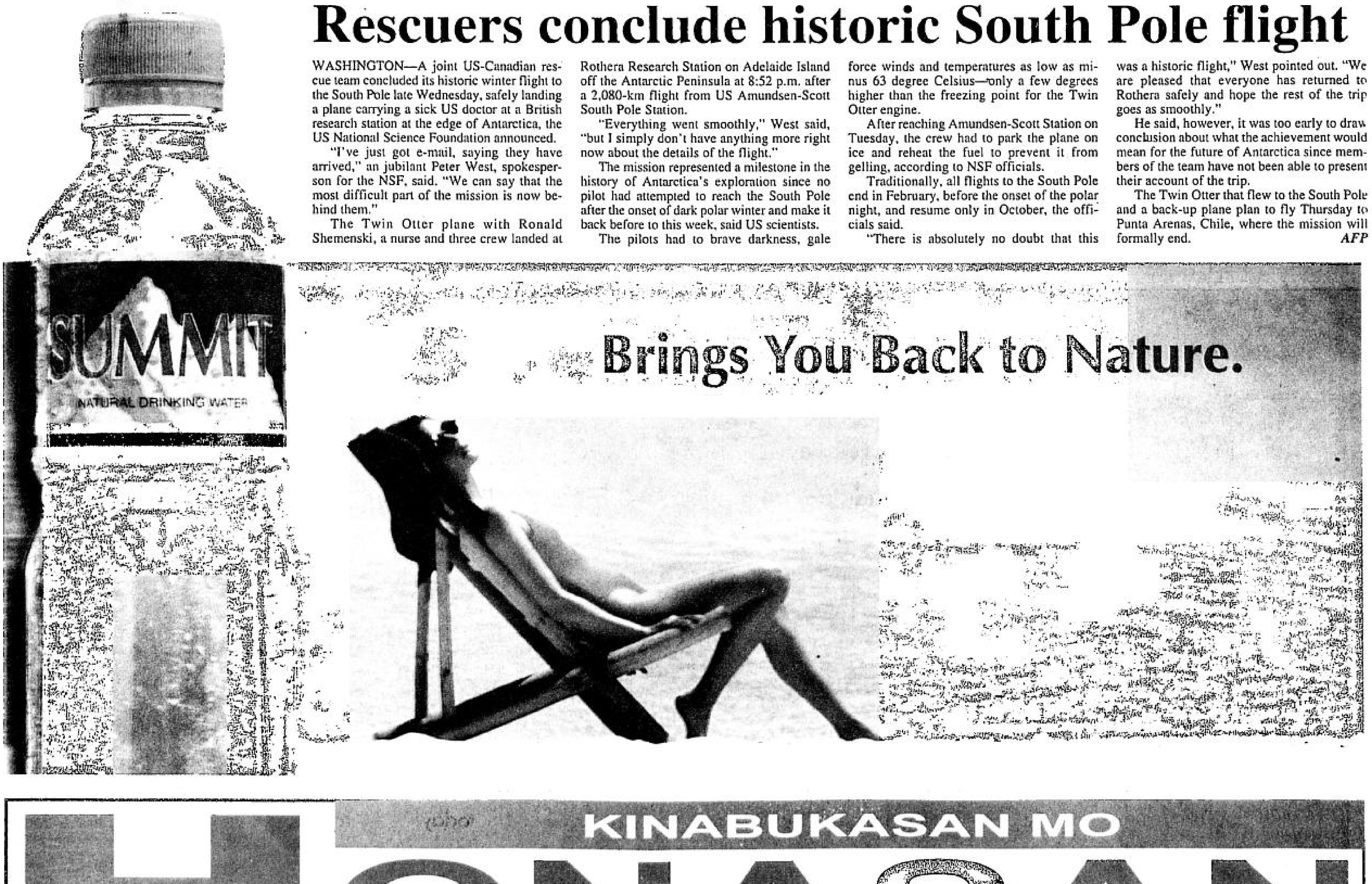
After reaching Amundsen-Scott Station on Tuesday, the crew had to park the plane on ice and reheat the fuel to prevent it from gelling, according to NSF officials.

Traditionally, all flights to the South Pole end in February, before the onset of the polar night, and resume only in October, the officials said.

"There is absolutely no doubt that this was a historic flight," West pointed out. "We are pleased that everyone has returned to Rothera safely and hope the rest of the trip goes as smoothly."

He said, however, it was too early to draw conclusion about what the achievement would mean for the future of Antarctica since members of the team have not been able to present their account of the trip.

The Twin Otter that flew to the South Pole and a back-up plane plan to fly Thursday to Punta Arenas, Chile, where the mission will formally end. *AFP*



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1170 Series of 2001.

Wahid fails to strike deal with political foes

JAKARTA—President Abdurrahman Wahid's plans for last-ditch peace talks with his political rivals fell through yesterday as lawmakers appeared determined to censure him over corruption allegations, raising the likelihood of eventual impeachment.

Amid increasing tensions, security chiefs warned that police and troops would shoot troublemakers if protests, which threaten to disrupt a meeting of parliament on Monday, turn violent.

"Our officers know when to shoot and when not to shoot. The instructions have already been issued," said the national police chief, Gen. Surojo Bimantoro.

Political uncertainty and fears of street clashes by pro- and anti-Wahid groups sent Indonesia's currency diving to its lowest level since September 1998.

The rupiah opened yesterday at 11,990 to the US dollar and hit 12,300 in early trading.

Adding to worries was the failure by Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri to show up at a weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday.

Wahid told reporters she was suffering from a cold. However, her absence comes amid growing speculation that she supports moves to oust him.

If Wahid, a prominent Muslim leader, is forced to step aside, Megawati, the daughter of Indonesia's founding leader, Sukarno, is expected to take the top job.

Wahid had proposed the peace talks, apparently as a means to end the longstanding confrontation between him and the parliament, and as a way to circumvent civil unrest.

He had hoped to get Megawati, who heads the largest single party, and other leading politicians together before the legislature voted Monday on a second censure against him.

However, it appeared that Wahid's rivals were not interested in making any deal to save his presidency.

Parliament first censured the president on Feb. 1 over claims that he was involved in two corruption scandals worth about $6 million.

Tens of thousands of pro-Wahid supporters were expected to come to Jakarta in the next few days to back the president. Many have formed paramilitary groups. Anti-Wahid groups say that they will fight them if Monday's parliamentary session is threatened.

About 42,000 police and troops have been placed on standby and the legislature is under heavy guard.

The first test for security forces will come Sunday when Wahid supporters stage a mass prayer rally in the city's main sports stadium.

Wahid has called on his backers not to resort to violence, but has backed their right to demonstrate on Jakarta's streets.

"Don't use violence," Wahid said when asked by reporters what his supporters should do if the censure motion is passed.

Critics say Wahid is dangerously raising stakes by not stopping his supporters, mainly from his home province of East Java, from coming into the capital.

"He calls for peace, but he lets his supporters throng the capital," said parliament's Speaker Akbar Tandjung. *AP*

STATEMENT OF THE TAX - MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (TM-AP)

We, the undersigned past and present officers and members of the Tax Management Association of the Philippines (TM-AP) voice our distress and grave concern over the recent conviction by the Sandiganbayan of former BIR Commissioner Bienvenido Tan, Jr.

As lawyers and certified public accountants in active tax practice, most of us have professionally dealt with Mr. Tan during his short term as BIR Commissioner.

In all those dealings, we became acquainted with Mr. Tan as an honest, fair, humble and hard-working government official. We can all personally vouch for his competence and integrity.

We are confident that ultimately, Mr. Tan will be acquitted. However, what we find ironic and truly appalling is that it is the honest and sincere civil servant who gets convicted, while the notoriously corrupt and dishonest ones go scot-free.

Instead of a jail term, Mr. Tan deserves the admiration and gratitude of the Filipino people.

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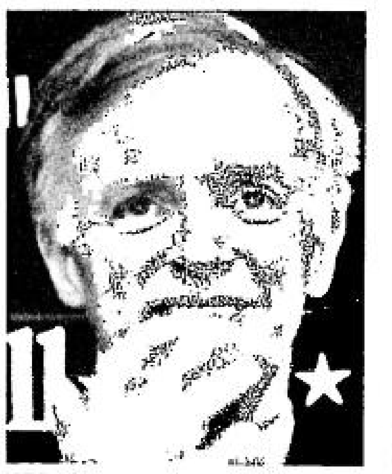
Catherine T. Manahan
CATHERINE T. MANAHAN

Ex-senator says his squad killed civilians in Vietnam



KERRY

NEW YORK—Former Nebraska senator and Navy lieutenant Bob Kerrey says he is haunted by the 32-year-old memory of a raid in which he ordered his men to shoot Vietnamese who turned out to be civilians.

But a member of Kerrey's Navy SEAL commando unit and a Vietnamese woman who said she witnessed the raid allege the soldiers herded together the women and children and massacred them.

Kerrey, who has not ruled out a run for president in 2004, received a Bronze Star for the Feb. 25, 1969, raid in the Mekong Delta. The award citation says 21 Viet Cong were killed and enemy weapons were captured or destroyed.

"The citation is different than what we reported," to military superiors, he told the Omaha World-Herald in an interview published Wednesday.

"I lived with this privately for 32 years," Kerrey said. "I felt it best to keep this memory private. I can't keep it private any more. My conscience tells me some good should come from this."

Kerrey, who earned the nation's highest valor award, the Medal of Honor, for a later raid, talked about the raid publicly for the first time last week in a speech to students at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia.

Kerrey said the mission took place on a moonless night, when he was a 25-year-old lieutenant leading a seven-man commando team.

Kerrey said two of his men, one of them named Gerhard Klann, killed several people they came upon at the start of the raid because they believed they were a threat. Kerrey said he had not ordered the killings but took responsibility for them.

About 15 minutes later, Kerrey said, shots were fired at his squad and his men returned fire.

"But when the fire stopped; we found that we had killed only women, children and older men. It was not a military victory. It was a tragedy and I had ordered it," said Kerrey. He has since said he counted about 14 bodies.

Kerrey said he decided to talk about the shooting because he heard that Klann was offering a different account.

Klann's version of the shooting, and an account from Pham Tri Lanh, who said she saw the raid, were reported as part of a joint effort by CBS News and The New York Times. The Times will publish the story in its Sunday magazine and posted it on its website Wednesday.

Klann said one of the people killed at the start of the raid was an old man, and that Kerrey helped kill him. Kerrey said he did not remember helping Klann kill the old man. *AP*

UN marks Chernobyl explosion

UNITED NATIONS—The United Nations marked the 15th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, appealing to the world to remember the needs of an estimated seven million people who still suffer from the world's worst nuclear accident.

"I appeal to member states, nongovernmental organizations and private individuals to join with me in a pledge never to forget Chernobyl," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said in a statement released Wednesday.

"Together, we must extend a helping hand to our fellow human beings, and show that we are not indifferent to their plight," he said.

Speaking at a news conference, the undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs, Kenzo Oshima, urged donor nations to come forward with funding for long-term UN projects to study and rehabilitate victims of the April 26, 1986 reactor explosion and fire at the Chernobyl plant.

The explosion and fire sent a radioactive cloud over much of Europe and contaminated large areas of then-Soviet Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.

More than a decade after the accident, seven million people in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine are estimated to be suffering physical or psychological effects of radiation. About three million children require immediate medical treatment—more than 11,000 of them for thyroid cancer.

"Unlike other emergencies that I deal with . . . the consequences of Chernobyl do not fade away, but actually grows increasingly uncertain and in many ways more intense," Oshima said.

In Ukraine, where the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is located, thousands of hectares around the plant still remain dangerously radioactive. The area has been closed and hundreds of thousands of people displaced.

Hundreds of millions of dollars have been pledged to make environmentally safe the leaky concrete and steel sarcophagus over the ruined reactor that was shut down last December. But little has been done in recent years on a humanitarian level to help the local population. *AP*

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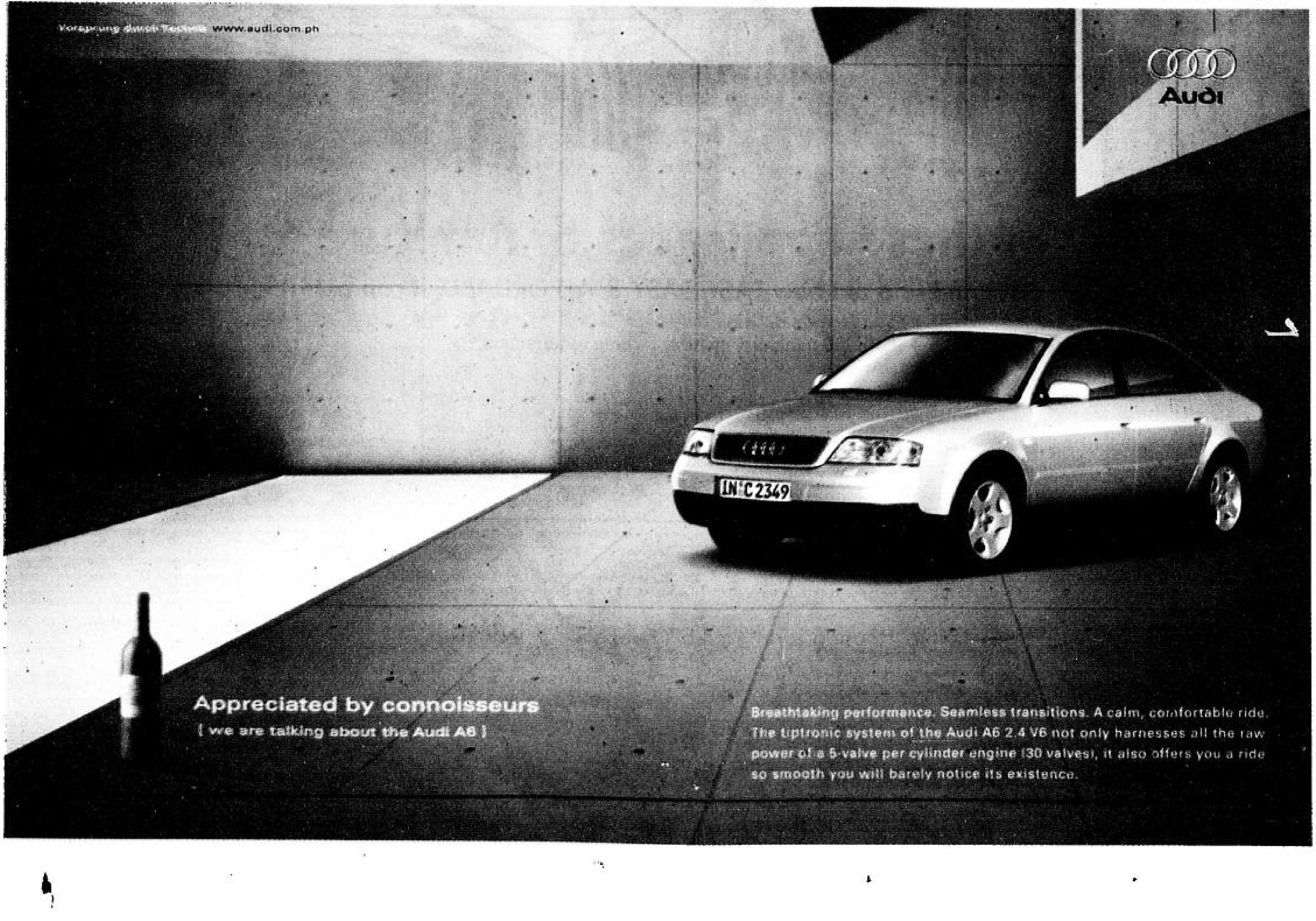

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Lakas exec killed during interview

Victim shot as he spoke to reporter

By RECTO VIDAL
AND MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

KALIBO, Aklan—A Lakas-NUCD leader in Aklan was shot 13 times early yesterday while being interviewed by a broadcast reporter in Barangay Dumaguit, New Washington town.

Raymundo Rodriguez, who belonged to a political clan in Aklan, was declared dead on arrival at the Dr. Rafael Tumbukon Memorial Hospital.

The suspect, lawyer Benito Salazar, surrendered to Supt. Jimmy Rivera, Aklan police director, and Mayor Edwin Peralta of New Washington two hours after the shooting.

He also handed in his .9mm pistol that he allegedly used in killing Rodriguez. Salazar refused to issue a statement to the media.

Rodriguez was being interviewed by Bombo Radyo reporter Judel Rentillo in front of the Eagle Stevedoring office at the Dumaguit Pier in New Washington town.

Salazar suddenly appeared and fired his .9 mm pistol at Rodriguez. Reports said Salazar allegedly continued firing even after Rodriguez pleaded for mercy.

Rentillo said he jumped into the water and hid in the pier because Salazar also trained his gun at him, fired a shot but missed.

Salazar, he added, was with armed men who also tried to get him after the shooting.

Rentillo was brought to a clinic for treatment of bruises and a check on his blood pressure.

SPO3 Edwin Teodosio, Aklan police investigator, said Salazar did not shoot Rentillo. Rentillo reportedly jumped into the water out of fear, he added.

Teodosio said they could not yet determine if the killing was election-related because Salazar and Rodriguez had a long-standing grudge against each other.

Rodriguez is the nephew of reelectionist Aklan Vice Gov. Jean Rodriguez. He is also the younger brother of former Balete Mayor Pontenciano Rodriguez and Rizal Rodriguez Jr., Lakas-NUCD vice mayoral candidate in Balete.

The victim is a known supporter of Leovigildo Mationg, a Lakas-NUCD candidate for the lone district of Aklan.

Salazar, on the other hand, is supporting the congressional bid of board member Gabrielle Calizo (LDP). He is also a known ally of outgoing Rep. Allen Quimpo and reelectionist Gov. Florencio Miraflores (LDP).

Salazar was one of the legal counsels of senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson, former Philippine National Police chief, in the murder case of 11 suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng in 1995.

A source, who requested anonymity, said Salazar got mad at the manager of the Dumaguit Port for allowing Mationg to campaign inside the port. The port stands on land owned by the family of Salazar's wife Noel Marie.

Upon learning of the incident, Rodriguez called for a Bombo Radyo reporter to accompany him at the Dumaguit Port and investigate the incident.

Rodriguez had also complained to Bombo Radyo that his men at the Eagle Port, which is in charge of the arrastre services in the port, are being harassed and threatened by Salazar.

Salazar was the operator of the Eagle Port while Rodriguez was helping him manage the arrastre firm.

In that interview a few minutes before the shooting, Rodriguez said the harassment was a result of the disagreement between him and Salazar over who among the candidates they should support in the May 14 elections.

Actor gives way to President's son

By BERT BASA
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Movie actor Roi Vinzon on Thursday withdrew from the vice gubernatorial race in Pampanga, leaving presidential son Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo unopposed in the May 14 elections here.

Vinzon, the candidate of the Buklod Kapampangan affiliated with the Nationalist People's Coalition, announced his withdrawal from the race in a press conference at the Partyland Restaurant here.

"I am officially withdrawing from the race to give way to Mikey Arroyo," he said.

Vinzon, however, denied allegations that he was either pressured or was paid by Arroyo's camp to pull out of the race.

"I was not pressured. This is my decision. I was not paid either. I believe that Mikey would do better than me since he is the son of President Macapagal-Arroyo," he said.

Vinzon said he believed that Arroyo, eldest son of Ms Macapagal, could do better for Kapampangans because he has a direct link to the President.

"I have thought about this deeply and I realized that Pampanga would be better off if he would be elected as vice governor. I admit that while I want to serve Pampanga, Mikey is in a better position to help our provincemates," he said.

In a separate interview, Arroyo, 32, said he was very thankful to Vinzon for giving way.

Arroyo, a part-time movie actor, also thanked Vice Gov. Clayton Olalia for helping him in his candidacy and for patching the "virtual gap" between him and Vinzon.

Olalia was the first to give way to Arroyo's bid after he dropped his reelection bid last month.

Arroyo credited Olalia and Vinzon for paving the way for unity in Pampanga.

Arroyo, who celebrated his 32nd birthday on Thursday, said Vinzon's withdrawal came as a "very good" birthday gift.

Whale show wins ruling vs DENR

By ELIZABETH MARCELO
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A judge in Bataan ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to stop from enforcing its cease-and-desist order against the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium (SBME).

Judge Remigio Escalada Jr. of the Bataan regional trial court Branch 3 issued the order on Wednesday, a day after the 20-day temporary restraining order issued by the Bataan RTC Branch 1 lapsed.

This means that the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau in Central Luzon cannot enforce its cease-and-desist order against the SBME's Ocean Adventure Marine Park project pending resolution of the case.

In its decision, the court said SBME is entitled to temporary relief "having initially shown not only a right to continue operations . . . but an international reputation to preserve (marine animals) as well . . ."

Lormelyn Claudio, DENR-EMB-Central Luzon director, issued the order on March 16 on the ground that the SBME has not obtained an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from the agency, even if it has already secured one from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 35 Lo 25°	**Baguio** HI 26° Lo 17°	**Tuguegarao** HI 32° Lo 22°	**Laoag** HI 35° Lo 25°
Clark Zone HI 31° Lo 24°	**Tagaytay** HI 33° Lo 23°	**Legazpi** HI 32° Lo 26°	**Calapan** HI 33° Lo 23°
Bacolod HI 34° Lo 26°	**Roxas** HI 32° Lo 28°	**Cebu** HI 32° Lo 27°	**Tacloban** HI 35° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos HI 30° Lo 24°	**Zamboanga** HI 32° Lo 25°	**Cagayan de Oro** HI 32° Lo 23°	**Davao** HI 30° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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Northern Luzon Bureau
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Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
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Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail:
inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
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Fax No. (052) 820-1274
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Head of MILF raid on Lanao surrenders in Cebu

By Nagiel Bañacia
PDI Visayas Bureau

MACTAN, Cebu—A leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that led last year's raid on the town hall of Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte, has surrendered to the government.

President Macapagal-Arroyo presented Hadji Minonah Tumarumpong during an unscheduled stopover at the Mactan Benito Ebuen Air Base (MBEAB) yesterday before proceeding to Bohol.

Clad in a fatigue uniform, Tumarumpong, MILF battalion commander in the Kauswagan-Munay District, turned over an M-14 rifle to President Macapagal.

He shook hands with the President and asked her that the areas under his command in Lanao del Norte be given extra attention by the government.

Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for Mindanao, and Lt. General Gregorio Camiling, Armed Forces Southern Command chief, witnessed the ceremony.

The presentation was supposedly scheduled in Surigao City yesterday. But the President cancelled her trip to Surigao due to bad weather.

She and her party instead proceeded to the MBEAB. After the ceremony, the President flew to Bohol to inaugurate some government projects.

Dureza, however, said Tumarumpong did not surrender to the government but joined the peace process.

He said the 300 heavily armed followers of Tumarumpong had also signified their intention to join the peace process.

"I don't wish to use the word surrender to describe the activity," Dureza said. The best way to describe it, he said, was a "symbolic return of peace."

"We are not glorifying criminal elements here. He (Tumarumpong) is here to offer peace (to) the government," he said.

Dureza said it was not accurate to call Tumarumpong and his 300 armed followers as surrenderees because they still maintain their camp in Munay and continue to keep their high powered firearms.

He said the government was still convincing the rebels to lay down their firearms.

Camiling confirmed that the 300 MILF guerillas were still holding their firearms inside their camp.

"We have their commander now. We are now regarding them (MILF rebels) as friendly forces," Camiling said.

Camiling said the Armed Forces deployed troops to Munay and Kauswagan to neutralize the activities of the rebels.

"So far, 100 percent the peace process is holding," Camiling said.

Tumarumpong said his men are just staying in their camp. "We are keeping our Armalites and M-14 rifles, grenade launchers and mortars in case of any eventuality," he said.

Their demand was for the government to pay extra attention to their underdeveloped community.

Dureza and Camiling said they have identified the immediate concerns in the area like the construction of school buildings and farm-to-market roads.

On March 16, 2000, Tumarumpong and his 80 armed followers seized the town hall of Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte.

The raid prompted then President Joseph Estrada to declare an all-out war against the MILF.

Spurned suitor kills 2 boys

BACOLOD CITY—Two children were stabbed to death by an angry suitor of their sister in Purok Prutas, Barangay Mandalagan here about 1 p.m. Tuesday.

Reamer Cabalquito Senoro, 5, suffered 20 stab wounds in different parts of his body. His younger brother, Resty Benedict, 3, was stabbed seven times.

The suspect was identified as Jerry Frias Pabiana alias Bimbo, 24, a suitor of their sister, Resmer, 16.

Double murder charges were filed on Wednesday against Pabiana before the Bacolod City prosecutor's office. Pabiana surrendered to the police immediately after the crime.

Pabiana admitted killing the children but he said he did not plan it. He said he was just blinded by anger at that time.

SPO1 Romulo Bravo, Bacolod police precinct 3 investigator, said Pabiana is a convict who was imprisoned at the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa for frustrated murder after he was found guilty of stabbing his employers whom he claimed maltreated him.

Bravo said they were still checking from the National Penitentiary if Pabiana had served his sentence or had escaped from jail.

On April 21, the victims' father, Restituto, barred Pabiana from courting his daughter because he wanted Resmer to concentrate on her studies.

Pabiana reportedly got mad and warned that something bad would happen to Resmer's family if he was not allowed to court her.

On Tuesday, Pabiana went to Resmer's house but she was not home.

Witnesses said Pabiana tried to attack Resmer's other brother, Restimer, 14, but Restimer was able to escape. He then vented his anger on the two helpless children.

Resty Benedict was preparing to take his afternoon nap when Pabiana stabbed him. Pabiana found Reamer playing in the yard and repeatedly stabbed the boy. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Lapid arraigned on graft charge

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Arraigned on Tuesday before the Sandiganbayan, Gov. Manuel Lapid pleaded innocent in a graft case filed four years ago by the sister of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lapid, arraigned before Justice Francis Garchitorena of the first division, said he had no hand in alleged irregularities in the provincial government's purchase of a P104-million land in 1997.

The arraignment, originally scheduled last March 27, proceeded on Tuesday after Ombudsman Aniano Desierto rejected an appeal dismissing the graft case filed by former Pampanga Vice Gov. Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, the President's half-sister.

Vicente Espina Jr., Lapid's counsel, in March filed a motion to quash and find probable cause in the charge that Lapid conspired with the sellers of the questioned 40-hectare land to evade taxes due the government from the sale.

Salgado filed the original complaint. It is now docketed at the Sandiganbayan's first division as Criminal Case No. 24790.

Salgado alleged that the government was deprived of taxes because the sellers, represented by Abelardo Miranda, prepared two deeds of sale and submitted only to the Bureau of Internal Revenue the deed for the purchase price of P5 million.

She also said the P104 million was disbursed without the required duly approved voucher and certificate of availability of funds.

The provincial treasurer and auditor, according to Salgado, failed to comply with the Commission on Audit's accounting and auditing rules.

The case, according to political observers, will also put to test the independence of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lapid is a staunch political ally of the President while Salgado is a member of the Macapagal clan.

Espina, in the same motion, also asked the Sandiganbayan to cancel the warrant of arrest issued against Lapid.

The governor had posted a bail of P30,000 in 1999.

An arraignment before the Sandiganbayan merits a mandatory suspension of 90 days but since the Commission on Elections banned starting January the suspension of elected officials during the election period, Lapid will stay in office.

Lapid earlier said Desierto "wrongly overturned" the dismissal of the case urged by the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP).

The prosecution of the criminal case is proceeding after Desierto, in an order issued last August, vetoed the recommendation of the OSP to dismiss the charge against Lapid. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Erap pal sues execs for attack on fishpond

INFANTA, Quezon—Former Caloocan City Mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio has filed a robbery complaint against at least 41 people, led by the late Infanta Mayor Roldan Velasco, for the demolition of his 15-hectare fishpond in Barangay Binulasan, this municipality, which the respondents claimed was illegal.

In his complaint before the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Infanta-General Nakar, Asistio alleged that all the accused and at least 500 others forcibly destroyed the three wooden gates and eight portions of the dikes of his fishpond.

Asistio, a known close friend of deposed President Joseph Estrada, also accused the respondents of stealing fish, shrimps, and crabs from the pond and releasing fingerlings into the Binulasan River.

Asistio also noted that the accused were all public officials of the municipality who, he alleged, had taken advantage of their positions and violated the provisions of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act by using government vehicles, time and money, in the commission of the crime.

He is asking for some P5.5 million in total damages.

On Feb. 10, some 1,500 people demolished the gates and portions of the dikes of the fishpond, after they were reportedly fed up with alleged government indecision on their complaint against the project.

They complained that the fishpond project had destroyed the area's natural mangrove system, which sustains the day-to-day existence of countless people residing in the area.

But in an interview with Velasco in the municipal hall right after the staging of the "people power"-initiated demolition, he denied knowledge of the plan.

He said he already sent a letter to Malacañang on Jan. 30 asking for the immediate disapproval of Asistio's application for a permit for the project because the people were restive.

Unfortunately, Velasco died of a lingering illness last month. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Workers in North to get pay hike

BAGUIO CITY—Aside from celebrating Labor Day, minimum wage earners in the Cordillera have another reason to be happy this coming May 1.

They will receive P7 more a day starting May 1 to complete the P15 increase to their P170 daily minimum wage that was mandated by the regional tripartite wages and productivity board last November.

The first half of the increase was given last Dec. 11.

Last year, the Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines asked the board to grant a P55 increase in the daily wage of workers in the private sector.

The labor group said the amount was the value of the purchasing power of the peso lost since 1996.

However, the board, after conducting a series of public hearings in the region on the wage increase petition, approved a P15 increase in daily wages to be given on a staggered basis.

"There was a clamor for a wage increase in the region last year due to the radical increase in the prices of basic commodities," said Augusto Aquino, board supervisor.

But he said the board had to balance the ability of employers to pay and the economic demand of the workers. *Pamela Herrera and Abigail Pajarito, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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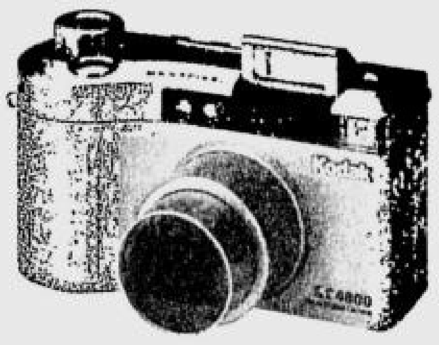

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Employment in Subic up 300 percent

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Employment here rose by 300 percent for the first quarter of 2001 compared to the same period last year, showing a resurgence of investors' confidence in the country, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) officials said.

The SBMA labor center reported that from January to March 2001, it processed the hiring of 5,626 workers for various business locators here. For the same period last year, only 1,891 workers were hired.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo attributed the increase in the number of workers to the opening of new manufacturing plants and the expansion projects of various companies at the freeport.

These new firms include two major Japanese manufacturers, Juken Sangyo and Sanyo Denki, and Yi-Phone, Catcher Electronics, Comoss (Subic) and the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium. *Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

2 CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY

Comelec disqualifies Leyte solon

By Joey Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Commission on Elections en banc has ordered Leyte Rep. Catalina Loreto-Go disqualified from running this May elections for violating a Comelec resolution that bars a candidate from filing two certificates of candidacy.

The Comelec ordered its regional office to cancel the name of Loreto-Go from the list of candidates for mayor of Baybay town and for governor of Leyte.

But the Comelec office in Eastern Visayas has yet to enforce the order, saying its authenticity would have to be verified with the poll body's legal department.

Loreto-Go said she planned to contest the Comelec decision before the Supreme Court. "I was denied my right to due process," she said.

In an en banc decision dated April 23, the Comelec said Loreto-Go was disqualified after she was found to have violated Comelec Resolution No. 3253-A, which prohibits a candidate from filing two certificates of candidacy in the same election.

Loreto-Go (NPC-LDP) first filed a certificate of candidacy for mayor of Baybay town, considered to be the bailiwick of the Loretos.

On Feb. 28, she filed another certificate of candidacy, this time for governor to challenge the reelection bid of her aunt, Gov. Remedios Loreto-Petilla (Lakas-NUCD).

But the Comelec resolution said Loreto-Go's withdrawal of her certificate of candidacy for mayor of Baybay was filed on March 1, a day after the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy.

"In other words, there are two certificates of candidacy filed by Catalina Loreto-Go," the Comelec said.

But Loreto-Go said the poll body decided on her case without even asking her to explain her side.

She maintained that she was able to withdraw her certificate of candidacy for mayor of Baybay on time.

Adolfo Ibañez, Comelec regional director, said he could not enforce the ruling because he has yet to verify if the decision was authentic.

He admitted that he received a faxed copy of the decision from the Comelec secretariat. But, he said, he would like to get a copy from the Comelec legal department before enforcing the order.

"It is the legal department of the commission that is supposed to implement this decision which is not self-executory," Ibañez said.

He added that Loreto-Go was still considered a candidate for governor while the Comelec regional office has yet to receive a copy of the en banc resolution from the legal department.

As such, Cesar Evangelista, lawyer of Loreto-Go, said her client would continue her campaign.

But Governor Petilla said she was confident that whatever legal move her niece would take would not prosper.

If ever Loreto-Go will be disqualified, Petilla will still face two opponents in the race for governor. They are Jess Pido of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) and independent candidate Isagani Espada. But both are considered "weak" candidates.

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CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Poll body disqualifies 2 bets for Bulacan governor

MALOLOS, Bulacan—The Commission on Elections has disqualified two candidates for governor in Bulacan and Zambales from running for public office in the May 14 elections.

In Bulacan, the Comelec first division recently affirmed the decision of the provincial Comelec disqualifying candidate for governor Luz Parungao-Viado for being a non-registered voter in the province.

In a three-page decision issued on April 19, Comelec first division presiding officer Rufino Javier said Viado's disqualification was due to her non-registration as a qualified voter of Barangay Silangan in San Miguel town.

The decision also said Viado had "misrepresented a material fact" of her eligibility when she filed her certificate of candidacy.

Earlier this month, provincial election officer Zoilo Perlas disqualified Viado after discovering that she is not a registered voter in the province.

Viado, a native of Bulacan but who had transferred residence to Barangay Wack Wack in Mandaluyong City, is a registered voter of Precinct No.894-A in Mandaluyong, the Comelec said.

Viado, on Sept. 19 last year, filed before the Comelec in Mandaluyong City a transfer of her election registration records to San Miguel.

The Mandaluyong City Comelec transmitted Viado's papers to the election registration board of San Miguel only on Feb. 7 this year.

The board on Feb. 12 denied Viado's application for transfer as its filing and processing did not beat the deadline imposed by law, which was Dec. 27, 2000.

Javier said Viado had committed a mistake in seeking her transfer of registration because she filed it before the Mandaluyong election office and not in San Miguel.

Viado, a candidate of the Bulacan United Opposition and the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, told the INQUIRER that she has yet to receive a copy of the Comelec decision.

With Viado out of the race, reelectionist Gov. Josefina de la Cruz would be running unopposed.

In Zambales, the poll body declared Antonio Diaz a nuisance candidate and disqualified him from running for governor of Zambales after finding that his certificate of candidacy "was filed to put the election process in mockery."

Diaz is a namesake of Zambales Rep. Antonio Magsaysay Diaz, who is also running for governor.

Representative Diaz filed the petition for his namesake's disqualification.

The Comelec said it disqualified Antonio Diaz after finding that he has no permanent source of income and works only as a part-time driver.

The poll body said driver Diaz did not inform or consulted the immediate members of his family of his intention to run for governor.

The Comelec also cancelled the certificate of candidacy of reelectionist Mayor Teofilo Pantaleon Jr. of Castillejos, Zambales, arguing that the three-term disqualification rule applies to him. *Carmela Reyes and Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Gringo hits Church 'hypocrisy'

BACOLOD CITY—Reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan criticized the Catholic Church for "engaging in organized hypocrisy."

He said he wondered how Catholic priests could call on the people not to vote for the "11 Judases" while at the same time teach love, forgiveness and the other practices of Christianity.

Honasan was referring to the pronouncements made by some Church leaders not to vote for the 11 senators who voted against the opening of bank documents that could have been damning to former President Joseph Estrada during the impeachment trial.

But of the 11 senators, only three are seeking reelection, all under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino's Puwersa ng Masa. They are Honasan, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile.

The other 11 senators were Anna Dominique Coseteng, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Robert Jaworski, Ramon Revilla, Blas Ople, Vicente Sotto III, John Osmeña and Francisco Tatad. Except for Tatad, all have terms ending in 2004. Tatad did not seek reelection.

Honasan insisted that they in the opposition decided to unite under the PnM because of issues and not out of loyalty to Estrada. He said he personally does not belong to Estrada's party, the Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

"The May elections are not a referendum for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo or Joseph Estrada, but for the rule of law," he said.

The issues involved in these elections are constitutionality and due process, he added.

Honasan said Estrada's ouster was not done through constitutional processes. "It weakened our democracy because it was characterized by mob rule," he said.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Polls delaying gov't housing plan

SAN CARLOS CITY—The local elections have sidetracked the implementation of the government's housing projects, housing czar Michael Defensor said here on Saturday.

Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), said the elections have made local officials "hostile" with one another and it has become difficult to coordinate with them for the government's housing programs.

"When you talk to one (local official), you get in a bind," he said.

However, Defensor gave assurances that after the elections, the HUDCC would coordinate with local governments "which (have) the resources for housing."

"If we can join forces, it would be easier for us to solve the housing problem (of) the country," he said.

He said the National Housing Authority has entered into joint venture agreements with the governments of Pangasinan and La Union for housing projects that would benefit teachers and government employees in these provinces.

Defensor said the government has a backlog of 3.5 million houses and it is "almost impossible" to fill this under the Macapagal administration.

"At best, we can build half a million (houses) in a year, depending on the funding agencies," he said.

He said his agency is looking for public lands in the provinces that can be developed as sites for mass housing projects. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Groups seek disqualification of gov

LAGUNA Gov. Teresita Lazaro faces disqualification in her bid for a three-year term at the capitol after civic groups in the province accused her of numerous violations of Comelec rules, including bidding out multimillion-peso projects despite the implementation of the election ban for such activities.

Civic groups acting as political watchdogs are coordinating with their lawyers for the filing of disqualification charges before the Commission on Elections against Governor Lazaro for making a mockery of public spending rules.

Documents obtained by the civic groups include a certification dated Feb. 7, 2001 signed by Lazaro authorizing the release of P4.5 million for the purchase of plastic tables and chairs, basketballs, volleyballs, trophies, chessboards, dartboards, T-shirts and other items.

In her certification, she claimed that the said items "were exceptionally urgent or absolutely indispensable to prevent imminent and real danger to, or loss of, life or property."

Leaders of the civic groups, in a statement, said the female governor should explain "how the absence of these items could be a matter of life and death for the people of Laguna."

Records also showed that Lazaro ordered on March 28 the bidding of P62.2 million worth of infrastructure projects and P32.5 million worth of special education fund projects during the ban on such orders.

Lazaro is running against the brother of former governor and now Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. in the province's gubernatorial race.

Inquirer, GMA-7 to host 'Great Debate'

(From page A1)

meeting type forum patterned after the US Presidential Debates.

Agapito "Butz" Aquino, PnM campaign manager, and Noel Tolentino, PPC deputy media manager, agreed on the format and other details of the debate in a meeting with representatives of GMA-7 and the INQUIRER Wednesday.

The Great Debate aims to give the public a larger picture of the senatorial candidates and their views on key issues in the May elections. Unlike past debates, the Great Debate hopes to elevate the level of political dialogue from the usual personality-based discussion to an intelligent review of the issues.

"It is an excellent opportunity not only for the candidates but also for the people," said Tolentino. "It will clarify a lot of the things that the candidates will do for the people they want to serve."

Aquino said the debate would also help people realize the importance of listening to different views. He added: "Any move to raise the level of awareness, education or information of the people at this stage is good in order for them to make a more intelligent selection when the time comes."

During the debate, each candidate will draw lots to determine what issue he or she will address. A member of a panel of INQUIRER columnists and GMA-7 anchorpersons will ask a question related to the topic. Once the question is answered, a member of the opposing party will react. The candidate to whom the question had been directed will then make a final response.

Issues to be discussed include poverty alleviation, the peace process, the problem of criminality, corruption in government, education, the environment and the statement of some PnM senatorial candidates that they would try to bring Joseph Estrada back to Malacañang once they get elected or reelected.

The three-hour program will be simulcast nationwide over GMA-7 and will be covered by the INQUIRER.

Jessica Soho, Eleksyon 2001 content manager for GMA-7 Network, said: "We're happy that two media giants are collaborating on this debate, which is a priority project of our Eleksyon 2001 partnership. We're hoping that this will be the debate everyone will talk about, not only in terms of impact but also its effectiveness in helping us know the candidates better and the issues they really stand for."

INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot expressed confidence that the debate would draw a big audience.

"This is going to be an educational and informative undertaking—and one that I believe will be so interesting that it will draw the biggest TV audience yet," he said.

In the run-up to the Great Debate, the GMA Network has launched a series of special segments highlighting all senatorial candidates on the programs "Saksi" and "Front Page." This is complemented by the INQUIRER's "Voters' Voice" which is pinning down the candidates on major issues and is featuring them regularly in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine.

The Great Senatorial Debate, which aims to reach more than three million viewers and readers, will be one of the highlights of the GMA-INQUIRER partnership.

REP. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, left, campaign manager of the Puwersa ng Masa, and Noel Tolentino, deputy media manager of the People Power Coalition, shake hands to signify their agreement on a Great Senatorial Debate to be aired May 4. Looking on are Raul Palabrica, INQUIRER reader's advocate; Celine Madamba, corporate relations manager; and publisher Isagani Yambot, right. RANDY HOMILLOSA

Veritas poll . . .

(From page A1)

Manuel Villar and Ralph Recto occupied the 2nd to the 9th slots, and Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan, the12th slot.

Broadcaster Noli de Castro, an independent candidate adopted by the opposition's Puwersa ng Masa-Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (PnM-LDP), topped the survey.

PnM-LDP candidates Edgardo Angara occupied the 10th slot, Ricardo Puno, 11th and Orlando Mercado, 13th.

Obet springs a surprise

Rev. Fr. Cecilio Anton Pascual, vice president for programs of Radio Veritas, said he was "surprised" that Pagdanganan, a former Bulacan governor, made it to the survey's winning 13.

"He has a strong showing in Mindanao and the provinces but he is a little weak in Metro Manila," Pascual said of Pagdanganan, who was not in the winning circle of the other surveys conducted much earlier than that of the Veritas/CMN.

Pascual said the results of the survey showed that PPC candidates Wigberto Tañada, Ernesto Herrera and Solita Monsod were "still strong contenders for the top 13."

Tañada ranked 11th-18th with 42.3 percent voting for him; Herrera, 12th-19th (40.6 percent); and Monsod, 12th-20th (39.1 percent).

Juan Ponce Enrile, Panfilo Lacson, Gregorio Honasan, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Loi Estrada, who are all PnM-LDP candidates, and independent Perfecto Yasay Jr. and PPC's Liwayway Chato were in the 14th to 23rd slots, respectively.

Best and worst shots

Veritas/CMN ranked the candidates according to their "best shot" and "worst shot" and the percentage of the votes that they obtained.

De Castro was alone in the first slot with 73.5 percent of the respondents voting for him. Flavier, who got 67 percent of the votes, was given a best shot of 2 and a worst shot of 6.

Arroyo, a former House prosecutor at the impeachment trial of ex-President Joseph Estrada, got 66.3 percent of the votes and a ranking of from 2nd to 6th. Both Drilon and Osmeña had the same ranking as Arroyo's but slightly lower percentage of the votes at 66.3 percent and 65.5 percent, respectively.

Pangilinan ranked 2nd-9th with 62.4 percent of the votes.

Magsaysay, Villar and Recto had the same ranking of 6th-9th. Both Magsaysay and Villar received 58.8 percent of the votes and Recto, 58.5 percent.

Angara ranked 10th-11th and obtained 49.5 percent of the votes, Puno 10th-14th and 46.5 percent, Pagdanganan and Mercado ranked 11th-16th and received 44 percent and 43.4 percent, respectively.

Independent

Pascual said the "independent" survey was not commissioned by any political party or group but conducted by Veritas/CMN, a network with 32 stations all over the country.

He said it was the Catholic media group's second inhouse survey after the 1995 senatorial elections survey.

"Just to give the people the present electoral pulse," Pascual told the INQUIRER when asked about the objective of the survey. "As media practitioners, it is part of our media work," he said.

He said the Veritas/CMN survey was conducted by the network employees nationwide, who were trained for the task.

The network employees interviewed in person the 2,500 respondents, who were randomly picked from the 16 regions, 36 provinces, 39 cities and 24 municipalities.

Pascual said the respondents were asked two questions: (1) "Are you going to vote? and, (2) "Who, from among this list of senatorial candidates, are you going to vote for?"

The respondents were then asked to check the names of the senatorial candidates they would vote for.

The results of the survey released to the media showed only 23 candidates, or up to Chato who ranked 21-23.

Pascual said Veritas/CMN included all candidates listed by the Commission on Elections but did not include them all in the pre-election survey results. He said only the 23 candidates ranked in the survey "statistically can make it to the top 13."

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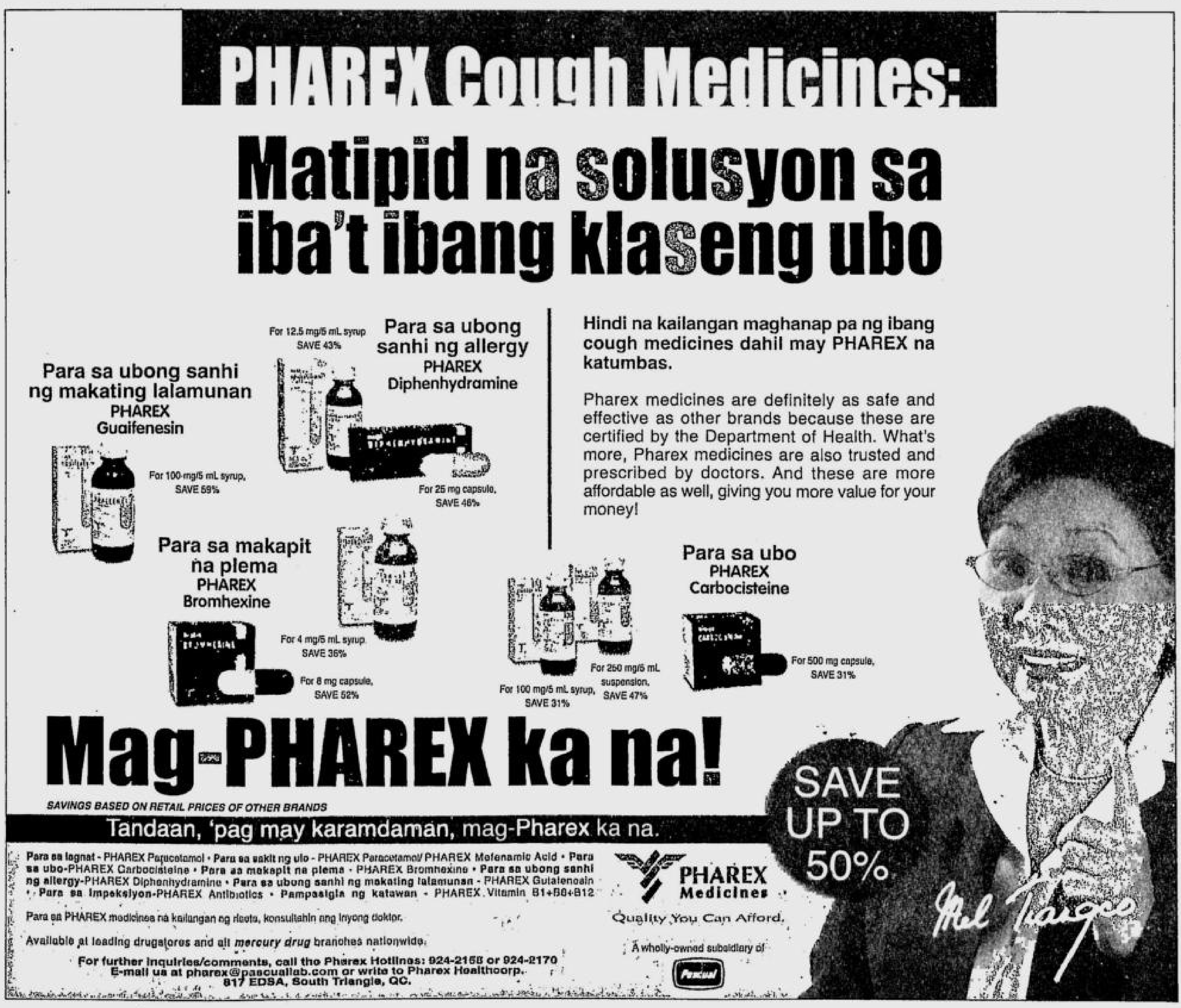

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MESSAGE

As the new century begins, it's inevitable in today's business world that we strive to be more customer-focused and customer-oriented in our efforts to build our business. Apart from being a profit oriented company, we are very much concern about our less fortunate Filipinos. With the launching of H.E.L.P. - Help Education Lift Pilipino, which is a joint project with Manila Chinatown Lions Club, it clearly explains our strong determination to help our talented Filipino Students who are unable to contiue their studies due to financial difficulties, as we believe that they are the foundation and future leader of our nation.

AOWA Philippines is dedicated to express its commitment to our society by uplifting the lives of the present and future generation.

H.E.L.P. project is the pride of AOWA Philippines. May the footprints that we leave, lead others to believe that education is a right and not a privilege! We hope that the fire of our commitment will light the pathways of our future Filipino Leaders.

With the tie-up with Manila Chinatown Lions Club Scholarship Foundation it is just a beginning. AOWA is set to tie-up with more non-profit organizations to help the needy homes and students. It's time for us to get involved, it's time to help our future leaders. You too can make a difference, for every purchase you make in AOWA, we will donate P500.00 to the Manila Chinatown Lions Club Scholarship Foundation.

Let's start making the difference, join us to help others!

(Sgd.) Bonie Gambioa
President

Manila Chinatown Lions Club
Lions Clubs International,
District 301-A1

MESSAGE

I am very pleased and honored to extend the warmest congratulations to AOWA Electronic Philippines Inc. in co-sponsoring with the Manila Chinatown Lions Club the timely Project H.E.L.P. -Help Education Lift Pilipino. This very significant joint project augurs well for the future of the most needy school children who cannot go to school due to poverty.

The assistance offered by AOWA Electronic Philippines Inc. should serve as a model to all well meaning business corporations to help more in the education of the Filipino Youth, who will replace us in society. Our investment in the Youth will spell the difference on the future direction of our country.

More power to management and staff of AOWA Electronic Philippines Inc.

Primitivo D. Chua, M.D., Ed. D.
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MESSAGE

I am very pleased to welcome the opportunity to work with AOWA Electronic Philippines Inc. in launching the project H.E.L.P. -Help Education Lift Pilipino. Our Manila Chinatown Scholarship Foundation need a shot in the arm from the business sector to enable us to sustain the increasing need of more under privileged students.

We express our greatfulness to the AOWA Electronic Philippines Inc. in selecting the Manila Chinatown Lions Scholarship Foundation in promoting the Project H.E.L.P.

Jose S. Chua
Chairman

Manila Chinatown Lions Club
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MESSAGE

As president of the Manila Chinatown Lions Club, we are very honored and privileged to co-sponsor with the AOWA Electronic Philippines Inc. another humanitarian effort with the launching of Project H.E.L.P. -Help Education Lift Pilipino. The AOWA Elecronic Philippines has committed that for their every sales of quality appliances, they will donate P500.00 to the Manila Chinatown Lions Club Scholarship Foundation in giving more Scholarship grants to the most needy out of school youth. We welcome very much the cooperation of the business establishments in such undertakings.

We wish AOWA Electronic Philippines Inc. every success in their business.

Hon. Leonardo B. Fugoso
President

AOWA ELECTRONIC PHILIPPINES OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES H.E.L.P. PROJECT

Help Education Lift Pilipino

Today, AOWA (also known as Aggressive On Worldwide Achievement), in cooperation with the Manila Chinatown Lions Club launches H.E.L.P. Project as part of its social awareness and responsibility. The signing of the Memorandum of Agreement was held on April 18, 2001 at the Lions Club Chinatown Office in Binondo. The aim of the said project is to provide financial assistance to our less-fortunate but deserving students in their quest for a better education which will eventually mold them as responsible citizens of the society. For every purchase of any AOWA item, P500.00 will automatically proceed to Lions Club Chinatown Chapter, which will eventually proceed to its scholarship foundation.

The program was highlighted by the signing of agreement between AOWA President, Mr. Bonie C. Gamboa and Lions Chinatown President, Mr. Jose S. Chua. The event was witnessed by Mr. Jeffrey S. Lim and Mr. Rommel J. Montefalcon, both Assistant Management Consultants of AOWA Electronic Philippines, Honorable Congressman Leonardo B. Fugoso, and PDG-Dr. Primitivo D. Chua, Charter President, Manila Lions Club.

Recently, shopping malls such as Ali Mall Cubao, Metropolis Star Alabang, Fiesta World Mall Lipa, Batangas and Country Mall Cebu to name a few, also participated in the said noble project.

This project earmarks another milestone in the four-year year existence of the company here in the Philippines. AOWA; is a franchise company under AOWA International Group, its Head Office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with branches scattered all over Asia such as Japan, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Hongkong, Brunei, Taiwan (soon to open) and China. The core business of which is the importation of home appliances direct from manufacturers from Japan, Korea, Germany, Taiwan, and Hongkong for direct distribution to consumers, thereby eliminating the need for middlemen and agencies. Consequently, the consumer will benefit from a high quality products for low prices.

AOWA boasts of high quality electronic appliances like the DVD System, VCD, Microwave Oven, Health Massager, Vacuum, Hot and Cold Dispenser as well as non-electronic appliances like Mineral Water Pot and Cookware Set, which is comparable to other leading brands. AOWA aims to be a household name in the years to come, thus the continuous struggle for more aggressive marketing strategies.

AOWA's culture is geared towards creativity and innovation. The ultimate challenge is to keep abreast with the ever-changing needs and demands of the consumers and be at par with other competitors in the market. It also commits itself to give out TOTAL CUSTOMER SATISFACTION, thus turning its clients into advocates.

Since business is an integral element of the social order, its primary purpose is to meet the society's needs by providing goods and services as efficiently as possible. The rapid growth in business culture has necessitated the need for distinction as the quality of service and products AOWA can provide so as to make us more competitive in the market.

AOWA also gives emphasis and value on the different aspects in its business existence thru Total Customer Satisfaction, Job Excellence, Profitability and Social Responsibility. AOWA is also geared towards excellence by providing quality products and services that is unparalleled and unmatched.

L-R: Primitivo D. Chua, M.D., Ed. D. Charter President, Manila Chinatown Lions Club; Jose S. Chua, Chairman, Manila Chinatown Lions Club, Hon. Congressman Leonardo B. Fugoso President, Manila Chinatown Lions Club Bonie C. Gamboa President, AOWA Electronic Phils., Inc. Jeffrey S. Lim Asst. Management Consultant AOWA Electronic Phils., Inc. Rommel J. Montefalcon Asst. Management Consultant AOWA Electronic Phils., Inc.

L-R: Primitivo D. Chua, M.D., Ed. D. Charter President, Manila Chinatown Lions Club; Jose S. Chua Chairman, Manila Chinatown Lions Club, Hon. Congressman Leonardo B. Fugoso President, Manila Chinatown Lions Club Bonie C. Gamboa President, AOWA Electronic Phils., Inc. Jeffrey S. Lim Asst Management Consultant AOWA Electronic Phils., Inc. Rommel J. Montefalcon Asst Management Consultant AOWA Electronic Phils., Inc.

[illegible] Dr. [illegible] MCLC, Jose S. Chua Chairman Manila Chinatown Scholarship MCLC, Primitivo D. Chua, MD., Ed. D. Past Dist Gov. & Charter Pres. MCLC, Edgar Chua, Past Pres. & Treasurer MCLC, Cong. Leonardo B. Fugoso, Pres. MCLC, Henry D. Fernandez Secretary MCLC, Bonie C. Gamboa President AOWA, Robert Ong, First Vice Pres. & Incoming Pres. MCLC, Jeffrey S. Lim Asst. Mgt. Consultant AOWA

L-R: [illegible], Victor [illegible], Mario [illegible], Antonio Babis, Primitivo D. Chua, Rommel J. Montefalcon, Jeffrey S. Lim, Benedict Formoso, Jose Garcia, Alfred Araneta, [illegible], Pepito Ragga, & Liza Daculan

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In response to the call for a TOTAL QUALITY EDUCATION among our less-fortunate filipino students...

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&
AOWA ELECTRONIC PHILIPPINES INC.

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You can make a difference, be part of this H.E.L.P. project! Join us to help others. This project runs for a limited time only. Hurry and visit any AOWA branches now and start making a difference in other people's lives..

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Unit S-26B, 2nd Floor, Metropolis Star, South Super Highway, Alabang, Muntinlupa City Tel. No. 850-8151
Shop C, Unit No. 4, 2nd Floor, Ever Gotesco, Grand Central, Rizal Avenue Extension, Caloocan City Tel. No. 365-0329
Unit No. 210, Upper Ground Floor, Gaisano Country Mall, Banilad Road, Cebu City Tel. No. (032) 232-5002
3rd Floor, Gaisano Mall Of Davao, J. P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City Tel. No. (082) 222-6377
R-11, Ground Floor, NE Pacific Mall, KM-111 Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija Tel. No. (044) 464-0124
Gaisano City Mall, 2nd Floor, Unit S-3B, Luna, Lapaz, Iloilo City Tel. No. (033) 320-8924
Module-3, 2nd Floor, M3-S06, Lim Ket Kai Center Mll, Lapasan, Cagayan De Oro City Tel. No.(088) 856-7903
Rustan's Cubao, Quezon City Cell. No. 0917-7910445 (Ms. Liza)
Sta. Lucia East Mall, Cainta Cell No. 0917-8105336 (Mr. Troy)
SM South Mall, Las Piñas Cell. No. 0917-8105337 (Mr. Peach)
SM Bacoor, Cavite Cell. No. 0917-8105339 (Ms. Jessica)
Tutuban Center Mall, Manila Cell. No. 0917-5344580 (Mr. Arthur)
Fairview Center Mall, Quezon City Cell. No. 0917-8116291 (Mr. Alvin)
Gaisano Illustre, General Santos Cell. No. 09178116292 (Mr. Ariel)
Ever Commonwealth, Quezon City Cell. No. 0917-7910489 (Mr. Jimmy)
Festival Mall, Alabang Cell. No. 0917-7910590 (Mr. Ronaldo)

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An Open Letter to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo & Her Cabinet

Why We Should Not Be Afraid of GMOs
(Genetically Modified Organisms)

Your Excellency,

We, the official representatives and members of various professional groupings of the Philippine scientific community, have noted with dismay the increasing stridency of the issues being raised against genetically modified organisms (GMOs), their introduction and commercial availability in Philippine crops or in local or imported products for human food and livestock feed.

Very briefly, these issues concern the following:

- **Safety of GMOs for human intake and for the environment, and safety in the consumption of livestock that have been fed GMO-derived feeds;**
- **The role (or non-role) of GMOs in increasing productivity, and consequently, in the reduction and relief of human hunger and poverty;**
- **An apparent well-funded campaign to muddle public perception on GMOs; and**
- **Linking of other issues totally unrelated to GMOs, to add to the scare and confusion.**

GMOs (transgenics, genetically modified or engineered organisms) *are new varieties of plants or strains of animals or microbes developed by transfering through laboratory means (procedures collectively called genetic engineering) a useful quality to an existing popular variety of plant or strain of animal/microbe.*

As with any new idea, discovery, technology or newfangled item of human knowledge, the advent of GMOs has been met with public trepidation and a general fear of the unknown.

While we understand this tendency, we note with concern that it can only cause confusion and needless delay in the advancement of efforts to resolve not a few problems that have to do with human life itself.

Especially in our country, not least of such problems is how to feed our increasing population and how to marshall and sustain the resources necessary to combat the hunger and proverty that come with population pressure.

With all humility, but with the authority and currency of knowledge that our training and practice as members of the scientific community afford us, allow us therefore to help shed light on these issues.

I. ARE GMOs SAFE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT?

- All commercially released GMOs like **Bt corn** and **herbicide resistant soybean** have undergone thorough testing for toxicity, allergenicity and nutritional food and feed values.
- Several international agencies such as the **FAO**, the **European Commission**, the **Third World Academy of Sciences** and the national academies of science and technology of several countries have declared that the abovementioned genetically modified (GM) foodcrops are as **safe as any conventionally bred crop and pose no additional threat to humans and the environment**. Hence, the Philippine Department of Health treats GMO-derived food like any other food and has no need to test for or detect its presence.
- The property of a GMO depends upon the new gene it has received. Different GMOs must be treated depending upon this new property.
- The Philippine Department of Agriculture has always been vigilant in protecting the Filipino consumer from the entry of unsafe foods. It has acted promptly in banning the entry of dioxin-laced meat from Belgium and the entry of European meat imports that could carry the Mad Cow infectious agent. On the other hand, **the Department has no basis to declare GMOs unsafe and has no need to test for its presence.**
- The Department of Agriculture, in line with the biotechnology provision of the **Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act** (AFMA), is well-informed about the issues on GMOs. It supports risk assessment and other research projects and is **drafting guidelines on the commercialization of GMOs.**
- **Bt crops such as Bt corn reduce the exposure of farmers and the environment to pesticides** as well as the contamination of the corn grain with aflatoxin.
- Results of a 10-year study show that cultivated crops, whether GM or conventionally-bred do not survive in the wild and do not become weedy.
- Like any other new technology, the possible effect of GM crops on other organisms in the environment need to be **systematically evaluated to develop mitigating measures to reduce any risk.**

II. IS THERE ANY ROLE FOR GMOs IN INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY AND FIGHTING HUNGER?

- Philippine agriculture is beset with numerous problems, some requring the use of new technologies to attain an increased and sustainable productivity that maintains environmental integrity. **Experience in other countries clearly show that these objectives are attainable with GMOs.**
- **The area planted to GMOs in many parts of the world is increasing.** In year 2000, the total world area is 44.2 million hectares, representing an increase of 11% from 1999. China planted more than 500,000 has. in 2000 and Indonesia planted more than 10,000 has. this year. In the world market, the available soybean contains more than 50% GMO whereas available corn contains more than 16% GMO. Europe, Japan and the ASEAN countries like the Philippines annually import these commodities. There is no telling how the availability of this new technology has helped increase production in these countries or how much it has helped feed countless hungry mouths in both the producing and the importing countries.
- **No less than the Pontifical Academy of the Vatican has given its nod, though qualified, to GMO technology.** While giving a resounding no to human cloning, it has given a prudent yes to GMO technology provided that it should help prevent human hunger.
- Economic studies show that farmers, consumers, patent holders and seed producers are benefitting from GMO technology and that **small farmers gain more than big, commercial farmers.**
- Organic farming has always been proposed as a "safer" alternative to GM. It is, however, a labor-intensive farming system suited to supplying food to the affluent such as the picky European or Japanese consumer. **Not all Filipino farmers can have access to these markets, just as not all Filipino consumers can afford or be sufficiently supplied with organically-grown farm products.**

III. THE SCARE CAMPAIGN AGAINST GMOs

An apparent well-funded campaign launched by foreign interest groups has raised and muddled several issues and has only served to sow fear in the public mind. Again, allow us to clarify them, as follows:

GMO "contamination" in food.

The presence of ingredients derived from GMOs in food and in bulk commodities is referred to as "contamination" to **imply** adverse effect on health. There is no basis for this implication. The deliberate use of the term is a **scare tactic**. In the USA, up to 60% of processed foods contain GMO-derived ingredients. The recall of Starlink corn, one type of GMO in the US, is due to non-compliance with a regulation. **No adverse effect on human health has been observed with Starlink corn.**

GMO "contamination/pollution" in food production.

Again, mere presence of an element or substance, and one that has been observed to have no adverse effect on humans, is not "contamination" or "pollution." This is mere **gene flow** or the natural transfer of genes among varieties of corn planted close to each other, a normal occurrence among plants. Gene flow is easily prevented by planting different varieties at different times or isolating the variety.

"Accumulation of the GM product in the body or in the environment may have adverse effects in the long term."

The new products in a GM crop is a small piece of DNA, and two to three new proteins, common substances found in all foods that are usually digested or ejected from the body. These substances are easily degraded or broken down by soil microbes. **There is no danger of accumulating GM products in the body or in the soil.**

"Too little Vitamin A in 'Golden Rice' to matter; Vit A can be derived from other food sources."

The Vit A in golden rice has been increased so that a normal daily intake can supply about 40% of the daily requirement. In many poor households, rice with salt or sugar is all the food the family can afford in most days. **Thus, the Vit A in golden rice can help reduce Vit A deficiency which is the prevalent cause of night blindness or even death. More than 30% of young Filipinos are afflicted with Vit A deficiency.**

"Antibiotic resistance in GM crops may lead to antibiotic-resistant disease microbes."

The antibiotic resistance genes in GM crops may transfer to disease-causing microbes and make these microbes difficult to manage. Although no experiment in more than 10 years of study shows that this can happen, **new GM crops no longer contain any antibiotic resistance gene.**

"The Puzstai rat experiments prove that GM foods are unsafe."

Puzstai fed his rats with raw potatoes engineered to have high amounts of a substance toxic to mammals like rats and men. **Fortunately, this GM potato and any similar GM plant will never be available commercially.**

"GMOs like the soybean with Brazil nut protein cause allergies."

This particular GM soybean with Brazil nut protein has not been commercially produced precisely because of this property. However, a person normally allergic to soybean will also be allergic to GM soybean unless the GM soybean has been engineered not to cause allergenicity. Removal of allergenicity in rice is an on-going research.

"A GMO released in the environment cannot be recalled."

All one has to do is not plant the variety again, which is what happened to IR8, the first HYV (high-yielding variety) rice.

IV. TOTALLY UNRELATED ISSUES LINKED TO GMOs

The anti-GMO campaign often includes non-GMO issues which further confuse and scare the public, as follows:

Mad Cow Disease. There is no link between mad cow disease and GMOs. On the other hand, increased importation of GMOs by the EU is expected to substitute for cow-derived feed/food ingredients which are the main sources of contamination with mad cow disease.

Toxin-laced Tryptophan. The toxin associated with this product is derived from the process of production and not from the GMO.

Nuclear Power. This has absolutely nothing to do with GMOs. While nuclear radiation has been used to improve more than 150 food crops, this was done some 20 years ago, before the advent of GM.

Bgh. This is a hormone that increaseas milk production in dairy cows and has the same effect whether it is GMO-derived or not. Its misuse adversely affects cows similar to the misuse of the flowering-inducer in mangoes. However, no cow injected with recombinant Bgh has developed any cancer.

Golden Kuhol. This is not a GMO.

In conclusion...

Your Excellency, the foregoing are, to the best of our knowledge, our contribution to clarifying the issues raised against GMOs.

We submit *that instead of surrendering to our fear of the unknown, we must welcome with enlightened courage the opportunities we find at every new frontier of knowledge. This is the only way we can benefit from science.*

Filipino farmers are faced with different challenges as they till the soil to produce food for our rapidly growing population.

We submit *that they should be allowed the freedom to choose the technologies suited to their situation. So must they be educated, trained and enlightened as to these choices—to improve their own lot as much as to feed our people safe food in a safe and sustainable environment.*

We submit *that consumers be allowed the same choice. However, labeling should not place an additional burden to the poor whose only choice is what they can afford.*

We submit *that GM crops resistant to disease, pests and drought are needed by Filipino farmers.*

We submit *that GM crops that improve consumer health such as Vit A rice, protein-rich staples, cholesterol-lowering food are needed by our rapidly growing population.*

It is therefore imperative *that Government strengthen the capacity of the scientific community in genetic engineering technology and support the speedy transfer of appropriate GMOs to farmers.*

Further, *the government must strengthen our regulatory agencies and equip them to evaluate new products and technologies using sound scientific methods to ensure affordable and safe foods.*

*The **National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines** (NCBP) must continue to safeguard the public and the environment from harmful genetic engineering experiments but must relax its too stringent rules to enable the appropriate experiments to flourish.*

Finally, *we, the scientific community, mindful of our obligation to share the fruits of the practice of our profession towards the improvement of our national life, welcome the pronouncement of the Secretary of Agriculture enjoining us to develop and strengthen our local capability on biotechnology.*

SIGNATORIES

Women Association of Scientists in the Philippines: ***Saturnina C. Halos***, President

Biotech Program, Institute of Plant Breeding, UPLB: ***Evelyn Mae T. Mendoza***, Coordinator

Women Inventors Association of the Philippines, Inc.: ***Dina B. Masa***, President

Women in Science and Technology Development Foundation, Inc.: ***Lydia M. Joson***, President

Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology: ***Lydia G. Tansinsin***, President

Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Technology: ***Sonia Y. de Leon***, President

Institute of Biology, College of Science, up Diliman: ***Nellie C. Lopez***, Director

Natural Science Research Institute, up Diliman: ***Ernelea P. Cao***, Director

Crop Science Society of the Philippines: ***Leocadio Sebastian***, President

National Institute of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, UP Manila: ***Nina G. Barzaga***, Director

National Institutes of Health, UP Manila: ***Mario Festin***, Executive Director & Vice Chancellor for Research

Biochemical Society of the Philippines: ***Dr. Rhodora R. Aldemita***, President

Institute of Plant Breeding, UPLB: ***Dr. Violeta N. Villegas***, Director

National Institute of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, UP Diliman: ***Dr. Virginia Monje***, Director

Pest Management Council of the Philippines: ***Erdie Malveda***, President

Erap allies mass at Edsa

(From page A1)

But unlike the organized ranks of the hundreds of thousands who trooped to Edsa in January, the large crowd of demonstrators who flocked to the Shrine Wednesday night and yesterday were unruly.

A security guard who was one of those who discovered that the statue of Our Lady of Peace had been damaged yesterday noted the difference.

"We could not do anything. They were hard to talk to, unlike the crowd before at Edsa II," said the guard. "They're really different."

Monitoring

The Palace said President Macapagal-Arroyo was monitoring the situation but had issued no order to disperse the crowd. ***(Malacañang's reaction and others on Page A1.)***

A special Cabinet committee was to discuss the security implications of the protest.

Ejercito said that unlike the largely middle-class forces that rallied against her husband, the pro-Estrada forces had to earn a living and could not afford to remain at the Edsa Shrine for days on end.

"Nobody organized them. Do not belittle the poor," she said in a radio interview.

Joseph Valiente, a leader of a pro-Estrada group Struggle of the Masses for Democracy, said "no one organized the (rally) but the people, the people who voted for (Estrada) and love the Constitution."

Chief Supt. George Aliño, Eastern Police District director, said that the rally did not appear to have any organizers, making it harder for the protesters to marshal their own ranks.

The security guard, who refused to be named for fear of reprisal from the Estrada supporters, said the security force could not do much to control the demonstrators, who ranged from bare-backed and tattooed men to old women to more inconspicuous well-heeled office workers.

At least 300 policemen from the central and eastern police districts were deployed to secure the area while the administration of the Edsa Shrine parish added 10 more security guards to protect the shrine.

Mediamen chased

Many media men who tried to cover the event left the rally because of a hostile and potentially harmful environment.

A crowd chased after a GMA television crew and called for a boycott of ABS-CBN and other media outfits that they said were "biased" against the Estrada family.

Estrada's son, JV Ejercito, later apologized for the hostile treatment and pleaded with broadcast giants ABS-CBN and GMA to come and cover the event, assuring them that they would be safe.

But other rally leaders warded off the INQUIRER and other newspapers who tried to seek comment from the rally leaders, saying they did not accept people from the press due to the latter's alleged discrimination against the Estrada camp.

"*Media, tuta ng administrasyon ni Gloria,*" read one placard.

There was also a report that a bag of one of the Estrada supporters was slashed, while the management of the Robinson's Galleria shopping mall reportedly requested police assistance because their lights were being tampered with. Police, however, have yet to arrest any suspect or confirm the alleged petty crimes.

Sauce for the goose

Santiago argued that if the size of the pro-Estrada crowd grows, the "Supreme Court will be caught in the horns of a dilemma" since it has set a "judicial precedent" by legitimizing the Macapagal presidency following People Power II.

"What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander . . . What was decided (by the SC) under one set of facts must be repeated in a case presenting the same set of facts," said the senator.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said there would be "a social explosion" but refused to comment on whether the opposition had the crucial military backing that made both Edsa I and II successful.

Santiago called for civil disobedience "against a regime that can no longer be described as democratic."

On Wednesday night, police officials chose against dispersing the supporters who gathered at the shrine after Ejercito and some of the pro-Estrada senators stayed with the protesters until the wee hours of the morning.

Santiago, the recent target of texters ribbing her for reneging on a promise to jump from a plane if Estrada was arrested, urged the demonstrators to stay for as long as it would take to reinstall Estrada as president.

"*Kung bubuhusan tayo ng tubig, e di mag*-bathing suit *tayo*," she told the crowd.

She made no mention of her earlier pledge to jump.

Former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson, along with Senators Gringo Honasan and Tito Sotto, also reportedly showed up at the rally.

'Gloria Labandera'

If the anti-Estrada rallies of the past popularized "Huling-Huli" to the tune of "Wooly-Booly," the pro-Estrada rally answered with an anti-Macapagal version of "Gloria Labandera."

While the anti-Estrada songs spoofed the ousted president for his supposed gambling, drinking and womanizing, the lyrics against Ms Macapagal were about infidelity to her husband Mike Arroyo.

The song revved up the festive atmosphere at the shrine, where the people jumped, danced and screamed "Erap pa rin" as the loudspeakers blared.

A group of male dancers dressed in black and wearing trademark orange Erap wristbands grabbed the spotlight and got the crowd dancing to the tune of "Jumping, Jumping" while another group of women on the streets gyrated to the beat of "Horny."

Meals of sardines and adobo with rice were distributed around lunchtime yesterday, with the organizers apologizing for the food, which they said was "*pagkain ng mahirap.*"

El Shaddai, INC

An undisclosed number of El Shaddai members took part in the rally, according to the spokesperson of the charismatic movement led by Estrada's spiritual adviser Mike Velarde.

But Mel Robles, the spokesperson, claimed "there was no formal directive for El Shaddai members to go there."

"They are free to go to Edsa. They are on their own. They are free to express their political sentiments," Robles said.

El Shaddai has more than seven million members here and abroad. In the 1998 elections, the group cast its lot with Estrada.

There was also no official directive from Iglesia ni Cristo leaders for its five million members to go to Edsa. In worship services held yesterday, there was no circular read about participating in the rally.

But there were INC members just the same who went voluntarily to the rally. ***With reports from Jerry Esplanada and Donna S. Cueto; AFP***

PNP seeks Sandigan OK to bring Erap to Laguna

(From page A1)

told the Sandigan's third division that their client should be accorded some privileges and not be treated like an ordinary criminal.

They also said the ongoing protests of the ex-president's loyalists could escalate if Estrada and his son Jinggoy were not put under house arrest.

Asked if there was a historical precedent for their motion, Estrada lawyer Jose Flaminiano said Emilio Aguinaldo, the first Philippine President, was even billeted in Malacañang when he was captured by the Americans.

But a prosecutor said, drawing laughter from the packed courtroom, that this could not be done because there was already another President in Malacañang.

Another government prosecutor, Humphrey Monteroso, said allowing the Estradas to be put under house arrest would violate the "equal protection clause" and set a "bad precedent."

"It does not make any difference whether you are a president or not . . . Aside from President Estrada, there were other ranking officials (who have been charged), but they were not given the opportunity to avail themselves of a house arrest," Monteroso added.

Fr. Vidal Gornez S.J., a volunteer chaplain of the National Penitentiary, said the five-hectare detention site in Sta. Rosa was "much, much, much better" than the facilities in the jails where convicts and those detained while undergoing trial were held.

The five-hectare compound reportedly includes a receiving area, an exercise yard and a helipad hastily constructed in case the court decided to use it as Estrada's temporary home while undergoing trial for plunder.

Unlike crowded detention sites, the training center has plenty of fresh air and ample space for walking—but also a three-meter-wide electrified fence.

Gornez's job as executive director of the Philippine Jesuit Prison Service allows him to witness the sordid and continually deteriorating state of the country's jails and prisons.

Sizable following

Mendoza acknowledged that Estrada still had a "sizable following" that could disrupt traffic and day-to-day business at the PNP.

He said Estrada's following mostly came from San Juan, a stone's throw away from Camp Crame.

Mendoza also told the anti-graft court that the PNP wished to transfer the ex-president to a "more secure place" for the duration of the trial.

He said that the intersection of Boni Serrano Avenue and Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (Edsa) was one of the busiest in Metro Manila, and that the mere presence of a crowd, especially outside the gates of Camp Crame, immediately caused traffic congestion, thus inconveniencing the public.

Shortly after Estrada was arrested at around 3 p.m. Wednesday, his supporters massed in front of Camp Crame to demand his release.

The crowd eventually went wild, prompting police to close both north and southbound lanes.

While Estrada's loyalists have since moved to the Edsa Shrine, the Edsa gates of Camp Crame remained closed up to yesterday.

Mendoza said the number of people transacting business inside Camp Crame was a major factor that should be considered particularly where Estrada's security was concerned.

He said the business activity in the camp would entail the pullout of more policemen from their present areas of assignment to beef up sentry detail and crowd control.

This, he said, would adversely affect the PNP's performance of its missions, especially at this time when the national elections were approaching.

Asked if the loyalists' protests would die down once Estrada was transferred to Sta. Rosa, a ranking police official said yes.

"The public's access to him will be limited. At present, his visitors come and go at any time, such that after the visit, they go directly to the Edsa Shrine and agitate the people some more. This is also in aid of election or reelection," said the official who requested anonymity.

Special treatment

Monteroso pointed out that certain sectors had been complaining that in the Philippines, people from higher classes were being given special treatment.

"I think we should maintain the essence of democracy so that nobody can complain," he said, adding that there was no legal basis for the requested house arrest.

But Estrada's lawyers maintained that they were not seeking special treatment for Estrada.

"We believe that we will not be giving him special treatment in the legal sense. We are merely according him some privileges and amenities befitting a former president," Flaminiano said.

"He may not have been a good president in the eyes of some of our people, but he was nonetheless a president who was elected by the biggest majority (in history)," the lawyer added.

Cleofe Verzola , another Estrada lawyer, said two citizens who were "similarly situated" could be given the same treatment, but not Estrada.

"When citizen A and citizen B are similarly situated they cannot be treated differently. But in the matter of a former president . . . who was elected by no less than 11 million citizens and whose term ends on 2004, who could be equal to such a person, Your Honor?" she said.

Asked if the request could not be interpreted as "double standard," Verzola said: "Nobody else in the entire Philippines can be situated in such a circumstance. The mere fact of his personality justifies the grant of the privileges . . ."

"If the court would show compassion by allowing (Estrada's) house arrest, there would be a greater possibility that his supporters' passions would be assuaged," lawyer Raymond Fortun later told the INQUIRER.

The proposed move to Sta. Rosa was opposed by both government and Estrada lawyers, with the defense saying that this would only magnify the security issue and pose a problem for the lawyers who had to consult with their clients.

Prosecutors, on the other hand, said Estrada could best be secured inside a camp. They said most of the inmates were looking up to Estrada as an "idol" and would not harm him.

Asked by the court if they had been given a copy of the PNP's request for a transfer, the prosecutors said they did, but added that PNP chief Mendoza should be the one to justify it.

Both the prosecution and the defense were told to submit separate memoranda on the issue.

"Estrada will be living under much, much, much better conditions—Imagine a cell measuring three-by-four meters, which is shared by six to eight (ordinary detainees)," Father Gornez said at a news conference of the Free Legal Assistance Group yesterday.

Gornez, a member of FLAG's anti-death penalty task force, noted that suspects detained for various criminal charges suffered the worst conditions in detention centers nationwide. ***With a report from Volt Contreras***

Protesters . . .

(From page A1)

spokesperson. "The Church is not being given its due respect."

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said there would be no dispersal of the protesters "unless they commit some acts of vandalism" or start rioting.

He said the government would adopt an "ultra maximum tolerance" policy on the protesters.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona said the government would not hesitate to step in should the pro-Estrada demonstrators resort to violence.

"We are regularly meeting and assessing the situation and (are ready to make) necessary responses," Guingona said. "If violence, damage to property and provocative acts happen, then the government has the right to step in."

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and senatorial candidates of the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC) said there was no valid cause for another People Power uprising.

"The people joining the rally are waiting for payment," Singson told the INQUIRER.

Rafael Mariano, president of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said people power could not be used to describe a protest action intended to restore a "corrupt" leader to power because it was meant to fight "tyranny, injustice and corruption."

"It is hypocrisy for forces, which now engage in obstructing justice and in defending an unrepentant thief . . . , to use people power to describe their unprincipled and futile enterprise," Mariano said.

Gerry Albert-Corpuz of the militant group Pamalakaya said the protesters were giving People Power a "bad name."

Crispin Beltran, chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, downplayed the pro-Estrada rally, saying the protesters' "anger and misdirected loyalty cannot sustain them."

"It's quite tragic that they should be defending the criminal who was instrumental in their intensified poverty in the last two years," Beltran said.

Coronel also said that the pro-Estrada gathering at the Edsa Shrine was not People Power III because people power was a long moral crusade and movement against cronyism and corruption.

"There is no good cause in their (pro-Estrada assembly)," Coronel said. "They are just there to sympathize with a person charged with high crimes against the people."

Villegas, who remained yesterday at the Edsa Shrine to officiate Mass, said the "foul language and obscene songs of the protesters" also offended them.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday asked the opposition not to exploit the pro-Estrada demonstrations at Edsa for "political interests."

Opposition candidates have reportedly taken people from their bailiwicks to provide "warm bodies" at Edsa and to gain media mileage.

"Some analysts feel that they have given up on the elections, so this will be their final pulpit, platform, or soapbox because there is a crowd there," Tiglao said.

Without support from the various sectors of society and the military, the protests of Estrada's supporters may not succeed.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, declared in separate interviews at Camp Aguinaldo that they were not switching sides this time.

"There is no doubt on the loyalty of the entire AFP," said Reyes, who as then AFP chief, led the military's withdrawal of support from Estrada at the height of the People Power II uprising on Jan 19.

Reyes said: "There is no need for loyalty checks (in the military). We are certain and confident that the loyalty of the AFP to the administration is 100 percent."

Villanueva let out a chuckle when teased by reporters if he was again going to the Edsa Shrine as he did when as commanding general of the Army, he joined Reyes and the military top brass in their defection.

"I'm not going there. I'm not joining Edsa III," Villanueva said.

US charge d'affaires Michael Malinowski said Washington considered the developments surrounding Estrada's arrest as purely an internal affair of the country.

"These are Philippine laws and legal processes at work . . . it would be inappropriate for us to do or say otherwise."

But military authorities are not taking chances lest the situation at the Edsa Shrine goes out of control.

With the AFP playing a supporting role to the Philippine National Police, four companies of soldiers from Fort Bonifacio and Fort Magsaysay arrived at the military headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, camp commander, said the soldiers consist of three Army companies and one from the Air Force.

In Butuan City, senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition said the pro-Estrada forces at the Edsa Shrine could not duplicate the past two people power uprisings because they could not muster the support of the majority.

Reelectionist Sen. Franklin Drilon expressed the belief that the protest would wane after a while because it was not fighting for a cause, unlike the past two Edsa uprisings.

"What is the cause they are fighting for?" he said, reminding that the arrest and detention of Estrada was based on a warrant that was issued by the Sandiganbayan, which in turn based this on evidence that was provided to them.

Rep. Wigberto Tañada said the protest actions of the Estrada loyalists won't amount to anything because, according to him, the people did not want Estrada to be back as the country's leader.

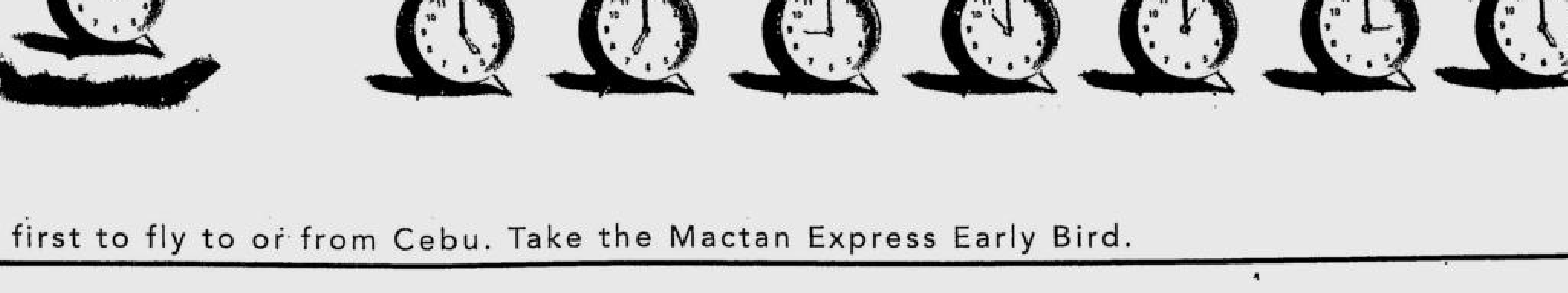
For Francis Pangilinan, he described the events at the Shrine as a mere "pro-Estrada rally."

"In Edsa II, the truth was suppressed but (the arrest and detention of Estrada) was something where truth would be processed accordingly and correctly," Pangilinan said.

In Nueva Ecija, Gov. Tomas Joson III, a staunch friend of Estrada's, is not mobilizing his followers to go to Metro Manila to join calls for Edsa III, according to officials in the governor's press office.

Joson was quoted as saying in Cabanatuan City that the support Novo Ecijanos gave to Estrada last January when they went to Mendiola was in recognition of Estrada's incumbency.

Joson reportedly told his followers that they have now to "follow the rule of law." ***With reports from Armand Nocum and Donna S. Cueto in Manila; Leoncio Balbin Jr., Yolanda Fuertes, Abigail Pajarito, Shannaleigh Picar and Richellou Mariano, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***



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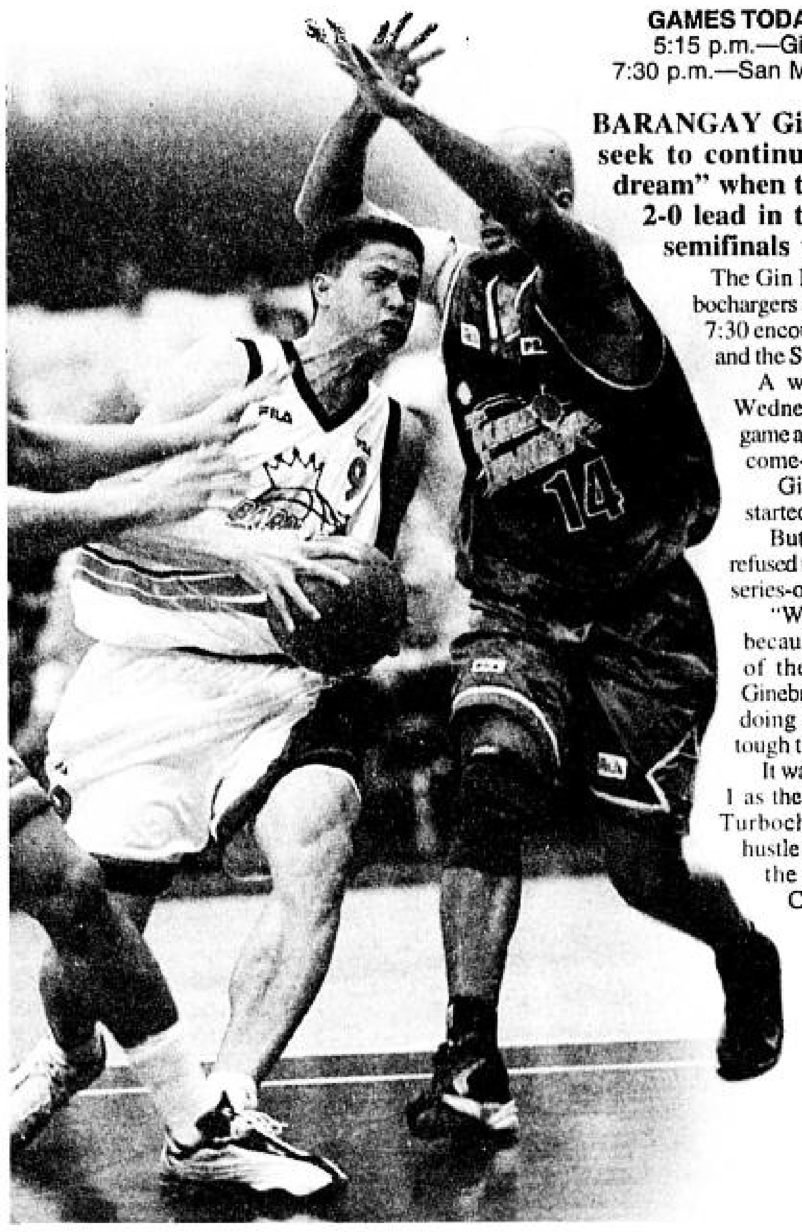
PBA SEMIFINALS

Ginebra, Pop Cola seek 2-0 lead



JUN Limpot (with the ball) typifies Ginebra's intensity as he drives against Shell's Benjie Paras in Game 1 on Wednesday. The Gin Kings won, 90-78.
ROMY HOMILLADA

GAMES TODAY (Philsports)
5:15 p.m.—Ginebra vs Shell
7:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Pop Cola

BARANGAY Ginebra and Pop Cola seek to continue their "impossible dream" when they go for a decisive 2-0 lead in the PBA All-Filipino semifinals today at Philsports.

The Gin Kings battle the Shell Turbochargers at 5:15 p.m. followed by the 7:30 encounter between the Panthers and the SMB Beermen.

A win for both winners on Wednesday would move them a game away from achieving a dream-come-true stint in the finals.

Ginebra and Pop Cola had started as underdogs.

But the coaches of both teams refused to get carried away with their series-opening victories.

"We can't afford to celebrate because we still have to win two of the last four games," said Ginebra coach Allan Caidic. "And doing it against Shell would be a tough task."

It wasn't quite like that in Game 1 as the Gin Kings smothered the Turbochargers with unflinching hustle in the fourth quarter behind the heroics of rookie Mark Caguioa.

Caguioa and fellow speedsters Jayjay Helterbrand and Bal David flustered the usually calm and collected Turbochargers, who never recovered their bearings down the stretch.

"Having a 1-0 edge in a best-of-five series is a big advantage because Shell needs to win three of the last four games," said Caidic. "But I'm sure Shell will make adjustments."

Donguines upsets Torre

Filipino Fide Master co-leader in Asian Zonal

BY ROY LUARCA

WHEN in form, Fernie Donguines is formidable.

Donguines summoned the brilliance that earned him the silver medal in the 1994 Moscow Olympiad to stun Grandmaster Eugene Torre and gain a share of the lead in Round 4 of the Asian Zonal (3.2a) Chess Championship at the Grand Boulevard Hotel-Manila.

The 35-year-old Fide master extracted his third point after 37 moves of a Sicilian-Paulsen variation to join Indon GM Utut Adianto of Indonesia, Vietnamese GMs Nguyen Anh Dung and Dao Thien Hai, Filipino GM Joey Antonio and Filipino IM Mark Paragua at the helm.

"I was familiar with the Paulsen because I play it with black and attack it with white," said Donguines. "But I think Eugene was not in his element as his pieces turned passive."

Torre, who is doubly busy being the president of the organizing National Chess Federation of the Philippines, sealed his doom when he opted to retreat his bishop instead of exchange his knight with Donguines' bishop in the mid-game.

That allowed Donguines to attack Torre's center and kingside, paving the way for a mating threat that forced Asia's first GM to resign.

The top seeded Adianto and Nguyen split the point after 39 moves of a Queen's Indian and so did Antonio and defending champion Dao after 54 moves of a Sicilian-Rossolimo.

Paragua, at 17 youngest in the 24-man field, defeated wild card Idelfonso Datu in 45 moves of a Scotch opening.

Indon Denny Juswanto and Vietnamese Nguyen Thanh So drew their Double Fianchetto game in 41 moves to trail the pacesetters at 2.5 points.

In women's play, Vietnam's WGM Hoang Thanh Trang downed compatriot Thi Kim Loan Tran in 37 moves of a Queen's Pawn-Side Step variation to tally her fourth straight point.

Another Vietnamese, Thi Thanh An Nguyen, ranked second with 3 points after a 34-move Benoni conquest of Joann Toledo.

WIM Beverly Mendoza kept the Filipinas' hope alive by besting Mongolian Dashdondog Soyolmaa in 37 moves of a Queen's Pawn opening.

Mendoza, 19, rose to 2.5 points in the company of compatriot Christine Rose Mariano, Mongolian Tuyshintoga Batceceg and Vietnamese Le Kiu Thien Kim, Vo Hung Phuong.

SPORTSWATCH

Dumoran reaches Head-Penn semis

CEBUANO netters Oswaldo Dumoran and Julianito Jopia scored contrasting victories yesterday to reach the boys' 16-under semifinals in the Head-Penn Age Group Tennis Championships a the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. The unranked Dumoran ousted top seed Jandrick de Castro, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, while the fifth-seeded Jopia eliminated fourth pick Vyaki Sabandon, 7-6 (2), 6-4. In the boys' 14-under class, No. 1 Mauric Lao downed Jasper Alpuerto, 6-4, 6-4, to forge a semifinal showdown with No. 4 Kyle Dandan, who scored a 7-5, 6-2 win over Miguel Pantua. No. 2 Miguel Narvaez beat Roderick Agna, 6-2, 6-4, to advance against No. 3 Arithmetico Lim, a 6-3, 6-0 winner over Ronoel Allan Tan.

Padilla, Ocampo NGAP winners

GEN. TRIAS, Cavite—DJ Padilla and Carl Santos-Ocampo pulled off contrasting victories yesterday to forge a semifinal showdown in Class B after the opening matches of the NGAP age-group championships at the Faldo course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club here. Padilla demolished Thomas Escano, 8 and 7, while Santos-Ocampo nipped Limjap 2 and 1 to move within a win of reaching the finals. Lawrence Negrido, who bundled out Allan John Miñoza via a 3 and 2 decision, tackles Jarred Sanson in the other semis duel.

Italian racing driver killed

BERLIN—Italian motor racing driver Michele Alboreto, a one-time Formula One ace with Ferrari and a winner in Le Mans, was killed in an accident while test driving for the Audi team in eastern Germany. The 44-year-old died after the car spun out of control and turned over on a straight section of the Lausitzring circuit, in what Audi's sporting chief Wolfgang Ullrich called an "incomprehensible tragedy." The German team said it didn't yet know what caused the crash. It said the R8 car had already completed thousands of kilometers (miles) of tests on various tracks without incident. German police said they were investigating the crash, which took place amid the team's preparations for this summer's Le Mans 24-hour race. Alboreto, born in Milan Dec. 23, 1956, broke into Formula One with the Tyrrell team in 1981 and scored the first of his five victories in 194 races on the circuit in Las Vegas that year. He was hired by Ferrari in 1984 and a year later came close to becoming the first Italian to win the drivers' championship in more than 30 years, finished second behind the Frenchman Alain Prost. *AP*

₱.3M staked at Pasay derby

A CASH prize of P300,000 awaits the winners of another special 4-cock event at Pasay City Cockpit, beginning at 7 tonight bannering some 60 fast-paced matches. To host the event is sportsman-lawyer Honofre Abella, who is known in Metro Manila's cockfighting circuit via his entry name Agilawin. Among the participants expected to figure prominently are William Co, Boy Eusebio, Lito Orillaza, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, Johnny Elorde, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Cito Manansala, Lito Roque and others. Hackfights are also held at PCC every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Batangas hosting Formula 3

FOR the first time ever, local motorsports fans will be treated to the thrilling race spectacle known worldwide as Formula 3 at the newly improved Batangas Racing Circuit in Barangay Maligaya, Rosario, Batangas starting April 28-29.

Known as "Philippine Asian Formula 3 Challenge," the prestigious five-part series will feature some of the country's finest formula car drivers seeking to follow the footsteps of world champions Michael Schumacher and Mika Hakkinen.

Formula 3 is an extremely popular race category in Europe and is very keenly contested in countries such as England, Germany, Italy, France, Japan and South America.

It is generally considered as a stepping stone to Formula 1.

Heading the distinguished list of participants are Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) awardee and 5th Philippine International Karting Prix champion Philip Alvendia; Formula Toyota expert class titlist Richard Joson; multi-awarded karting winner Pepon Marave; and well-known competition driver Jojo Silverio.

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Rahman thrown from car

BALTIMORE—Newly crowned heavyweight champion Hasim Rahman and his family were thrown from a convertible in a motorcade accident Wednesday. Rahman sustained minor cuts on his elbows. His wife, Crystal, sustained cuts and bruises and was fitted for a neck brace. The boxer and his wife were sitting in the back of a convertible when it struck a taxi, hurling them from the car. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Bucks take 2-0 lead over Magic

MILWAUKEE —Ray Allen scored a personal playoff-best 27 points as the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Orlando Magic 103-96 Wednesday night and took a 2-0 lead in their best-of-five first-round playoff series. Tracy McGrady scored 35 points, but just five in the fourth quarter as the Magic lost for the 11th straight time to Milwaukee. Sacramento beat Phoenix, 116-90. *AP*

Shark survives scare, beats GIV, 53-50

GAMES TOMORROW *(Makati Coliseum)*
2 p.m.—GIV vs Montaña Pawnshop
4 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs Osaka

BY DENNIS U. EROA

SHARK Energy Drink leaned on its accurate foul shots and a crucial defensive stop last night by playmaker Warren Ybañez to turn back GIV Beauty Soap, 53-50, for its seventh straight victory in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Ybañez, taking over the chores vacated by injured playmaker Michael Robinson, Chester Tolomia and Ken Gumpenberger sank three gift shots in the final 18 seconds to hand GIV its third straight loss.

After making it 50-48 with a split, Ybañez iced Shark's victory when he forced Egay Billones to an offensive foul, 12 seconds left.

Shark needs only to beat Montaña in its last game to sweep the elimination on May 3.

In the first game, Hapee Toothpaste nipped Osaka Iridology, 62-59, for its first win in five games.

Meanwhile, Regent Cheeseballs rebounded from an opening-day setback with an overwhelming 78-61 win over Gringo-Konika in the PYBL championship.

Scores:

HAPEE 62—Baguio 12, Dy 11, Saquilayan 9, Binuya 8, Espiritu 6, Sison 4, Salangsang 3, Bajar 3, Gelig 2, Mercado 2, Norrdell 2, Rivera 0, Lopez 0, Yuson 0.

OSAKA 59—Castro 13, Wilson 9, Daep 8, Cabanayan 6, Sta Maria 6, Ramos 6, Cuan 4, Omolon 4, Neil 2, Asmad 1, Magsumbol 0.

Quarters: 11-11, 30-32, 42-43, 62-59.

Second Game

SHARK 53—Tolomia 16, Castro 12, Ybañez 7, Robinson 6, Ortega 5, Malabanan 2, Sotto 2, Limare 2, Gumpenberger 1, Rodriguez 0, Caceres 0, Basilides 0

GIV 50—Bacani 12, Calo 11, Legaspi 8, Billones 8, De la Cuesta 5, Sanz 2, Kalaw 2, Peña 2, Prior 0, Gumatay 0.

Quarters: 14-13, 28-24, 43-44, 53-50.

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4. Prizes not redeemed after August 25, 2001 may be claimed at Image Works located at 553 M. Marcos St. Wilson Ext., San Juan, Metro Manila until October 25, 2001.
5. JTI and its judges reserve the right to verify the authenticity of winning scratch cards prior to the awarding of prizes. JTI and its judge's decision is final.

Raffle Draw Mechanics

1. Only smokers, 18 years old and above and residents of Metro Manila, are qualified.
2. Just fill out the raffle stub portion of the scratch card with complete name, age, address, tel. no. and signature. Detach the stub and drop at any MILD SEVEN SCRATCH AND DRAW drop box.
3. JTI and its agents are not responsible for lost, illegible, incomplete, mutilated or late entries.
4. If a participant's name is drawn more than once, he/she automatically gets the bigger prize and the winner of the smaller prize will be re-drawn.

Schedule of Draws:

1. Preliminary raffle draw: June 9, 2001.
   Deadline of entries: May 26, 2001.
   1st Prize : Apple iBook
   2nd Prize : Sony Cybershot
   3rd Prize: Philips Rush MP3
2. Grand raffle draw: Sept. 8, 2001.
   Deadline of entries: August 25, 2001.
   1st Prize : Toyota RAV4
   2nd Prize: Sony Home Theater System
   3rd Prize: Sony Audio System

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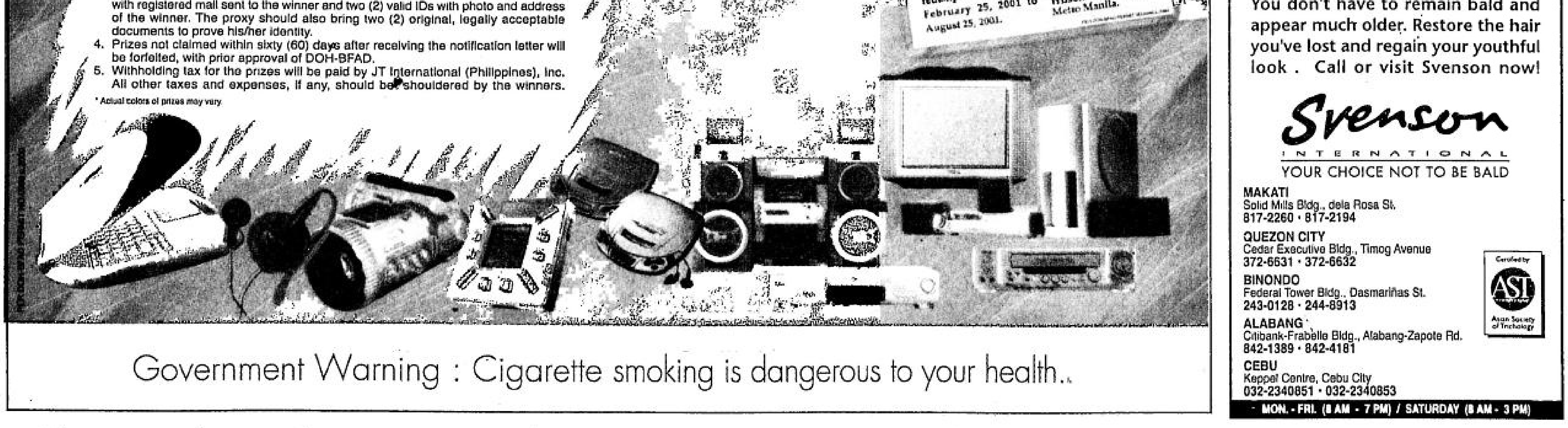

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Chop-chop woman identified

BY JEROME ANING

THE WOMAN whose dismembered body parts were fished out of the Pasig River on April 19 has been identified by her siblings, the Western Police District said yesterday.

Investigators also confirmed that the woman, Charito de Leon-Rivera, 26, of Signal Village, Lower Bicutan, Taguig, was into peddling drugs and might have been killed by a drug syndicate for failing to remit P50,000 to the syndicate.

SPO2 Athoz de Quiros and SPO4 Solomon Bataller of the WPD homicide section said Rivera's sisters Divina, 30, and Pinky, 24, positively identified her with the help of photographs of her dismembered body and the clothes she wore.

The sisters and Rivera's friend, Aileen Fortuna, 19, also recognized the scar on the victim's stomach, which they said was the result of a caesarian operation she underwent years ago.

Divina, of San Martin de Porres, Parañaque City, told policemen she last saw Rivera alive on April 17, when Rivera went to Quiapo allegedly to talk to the leaders of a drug syndicate and ask for their forgiveness for her failure to remit the money.

Rivera's torso was cut into three parts, which were placed in a plastic garbage bag and were found floating in the Pasig River off Muelle dela Quinta Street, where the river and its tributary, Estero de Quiapo, converge.

The severed limbs and head, which were in a cardboard box, were later found further upstream, near a pumping station on Carlos Palanca Street.

The victim was wearing a black bra, blue-gray striped spaghetti shirt, and beige panties. She was also wearing a cheap ring and a pair of rubber sandals.

Pinky believed that her sister was killed because of her involvement in the illegal drug trade.

Pinky told investigators that the victim was once detained at the Malolos, Bulacan provincial jail in 1998 for drug possession. Pinky said her sister was also a drug dependent and made a living by selling shabu.

The sisters said they urged Rivera not to go back to Quiapo when she told them that "Kiram" and "Sultan," probably members of the drug syndicate, threatened her life when she failed to remit the P50,000.

But Rivera apparently did not heed their warning. Fortuna said she even gave Rivera some money before the latter went to Quiapo.

Rivera was the sixth female "salvage" victim thrown into the river since September 2000. ***With reports from Myla Torres Jeusa Patiores***

Trader, sister kidnapped at 'checkpoint'

BY JEROME ANING

A FILIPINO-CHINESE businessman and his sister were abducted before dawn yesterday by 5 to 10 armed men dressed in police uniform at a "checkpoint" they set up in Tondo, Manila.

Benedict Leong and Judith Chan, both of 17 Barretto St. in Frexas, BF Homes Phase 4 in Parañaque City, were taken at about 3:30 a.m. on Juan Luna Street when they stopped at a checkpoint apparently set up by their abductors, according to SPO1 Jacinto Amor of the Western Police District's General Assignments Section (GAS).

Leong and Chan are said to be owners of a large recruitment agency.

Police said Leong and Chan were on board a Nissan Frontier driven by Hernan Cuna, 28, of United Parañaque Subdivision 4.

Cuna told police they had just arrived from Tuguegarao City in Cagayan and were on Juan Luna Street when the armed men flagged them down.

He said the armed men introduced themselves as policemen and asked to inspect the car. But the men suddenly drew their handguns and ordered Leong and Chan, who were in the back seat, to step out of the vehicle, Cuna said.

He said the men dragged Leong and Chan and shoved them into a Mitsubishi Adventure (WHD-980).

Cuna said that while the men were busy with his employers, he jumped out of the car and ran to a dark alley. He later went to the WPD headquarters to report the abduction.

Chief Insp. Eduardo Villena, head of GAS, said the case was turned over the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

He said his men were having difficulty in investigating the case because the relatives of the victims refused to cooperate with them.

But Villena said he believes the suspects were not real lawmen.

Brothers charged with complicity in UST slaying

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday charged before the Department of Justice two brothers for their alleged complicity in the abduction and killing of University of Santo Tomas sophomore Mark Wilson Chua last month.

NBI Special Action Unit chief Edmund Arugay said he had already approved the filing of murder charges against suspect Genesis Binagatan, who is presently under the NBI's custody.

Genesis was presented to witnesses yesterday and was identified as one of at least two people who dumped

BROTHERS/ A26

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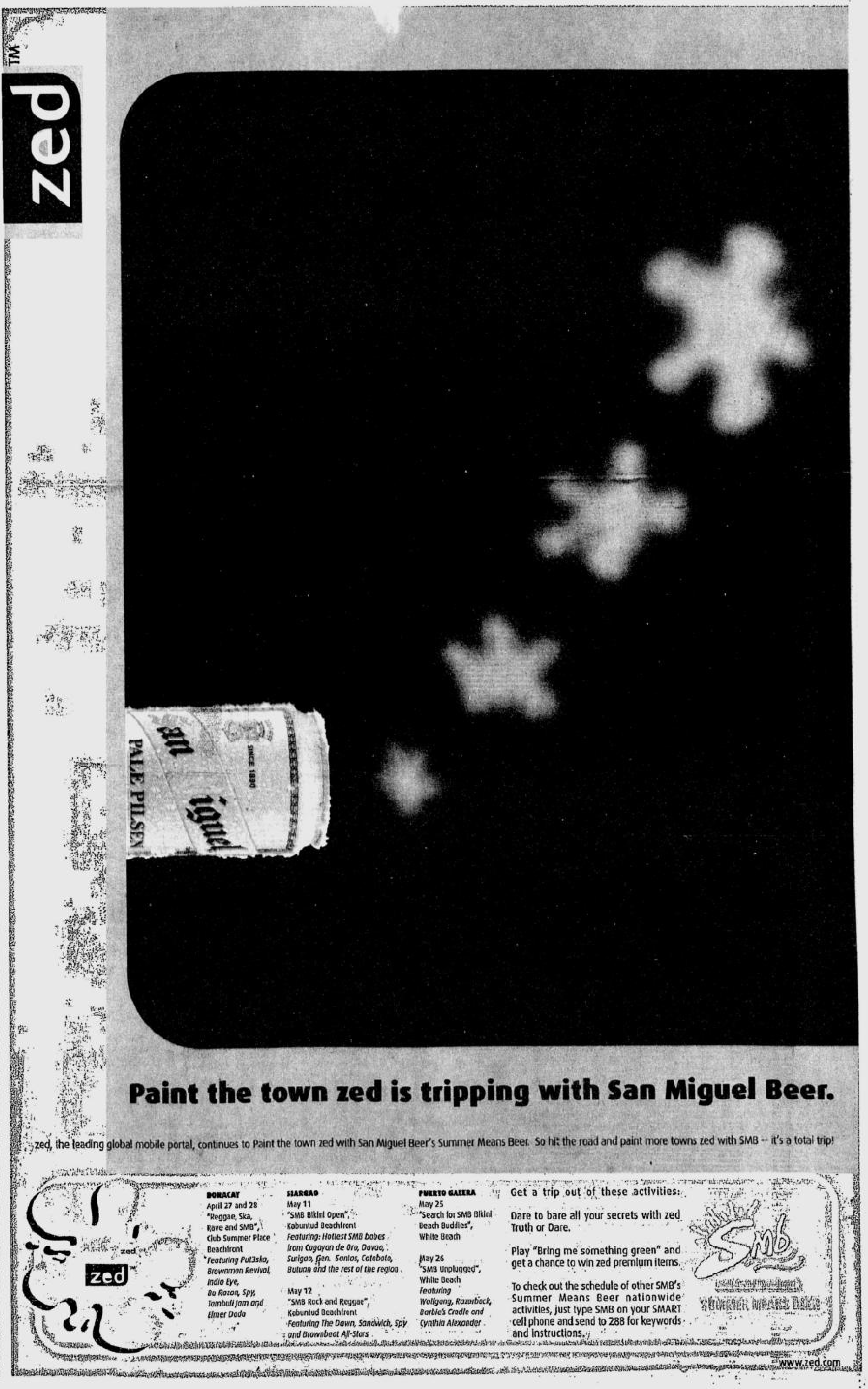

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Man stabbed dead by his own uncle

By Jerome Aning

A 23-YEAR-OLD man was killed by his own uncle whom he tried to pacify when the latter was arguing with a sister-in-law in Tondo, Manila early Wednesday evening.

Renato Puno, single and a resident of 636 Capulong corner Velasquez Streets, Tondo, was stabbed in the left chest by his uncle Reynaldo Garcia, 38, married, according to police.

Homicide investigator SPO4 Rodolfo Rival Jr. said that before the stabbing, Garcia had a loud argument with his sister-in-law at about 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Puno came and tried to pacify his fuming uncle, police learned from witnesses.

Garcia, however, only grew angrier. He went home and returned to the scene armed with a knife, with which he stabbed Puno, the investigator said.

Puno was brought to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, where doctors declared him dead on arrival at 6:40 p.m.

The victim's body was transferred to Sanctuary Funeral Homes in Sta. Cruz.

SPO1 Fernando de Guzman, a member of the Western Police District Station I, arrested Garcia and turned him over to police headquarters.

Garcia was charged with homicide before the city prosecutor's office. *With a report from Carina Roncesvalles*

A HEAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT EDWIN BACASMAS
Children watch Reynando Bancatan's peculiar way of calling attention to his campaign to plant trees and save the Earth, during the recent Earth Day celebration at the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

Erap loyalist fired as SJ police chief

By Agnes E. Donato

A DAY after he helped facilitate the peaceful arrest of former President Estrada on Wednesday, Supt. Gilbert Cruz was yesterday relieved from his post as chief of the San Juan police.

Cruz, who stuck it out with Estrada even after the latter was booted out of office, received his relief order warmly.

"It's now time for me to move on for the advancement of my career," he said.

Supt. Rodrigo Garcia will replace Cruz, who served as San Juan police chief for three years.

Cruz said he would probably be placed on floating status after his relief.

Cruz acted as "negotiator" between the Estrada family and the Philippine National Police to ensure the smooth arrest of the ousted leader.

Rumors about Cruz's impending relief began about three weeks ago. But it was only last Monday that the Commission on Elections approved the PNP recommendation for the assignment of Supt. Rodrigo Garcia as the new San Juan police chief.

Cruz also admitted he had actually overstayed at his post. A police official's term in a particular assignment should not exceed two years.

Today, Cruz will turn over his command to Garcia, who is the current PNP spokesman and is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class '82.

"For now, I intend to take at least a month-long vacation, as I haven't had that privilege in the past 15 years of my career," Cruz said.

Cruz served then Vice President Estrada in the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC) before he was assigned to head the San Juan police.

He was chosen one of the Ten Outstanding Policemen in the Philippines in 1998 and again in 1999.

Among his projects in San Juan were the "Robocop" campaign and the creation of the Police Anti-Drug Operations Team.

He also put up a drug rehabilitation center in San Juan, exercise facilities for policemen, a playpen at the Women and Children Concern Unit and a mini-zoo at the police headquarters compound.

Last Wednesday, Cruz accompanied PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza in serving Estrada and San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada their arrest warrants at their Polk Street residence in the North Greenhills Subdivision.

Kidapawan, where liars won't be jailed

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

OUR country's biggest liar may have been brought to where he rightfully belongs.

But Gov. Manny Piñol of Cotabato could be harboring a bigger bluffer in the Thai boxer who has been picked to challenge the sensational Manny Pacquiao for the WBC international super bantamweight crown in Kidapawan tomorrow.

The visitor's name is a tongue-twister: Wethya Sakmuangklang. The name is actually easier to pronounce than that of the whirlwind of a puncher who flattened Malcolm Tuñacao in less than one round and stole the WBC flyweight crown in Pichit, Thailand last March.

As of yesterday, officials have not come up with the Thai's fight record.

All they have said is that he's rock-hard. This claim was readily backed by the fact that Sakmuangklang, 23, went the full route with Mexican Guty Espadas in Merida, Mexico last year.

So the Thai failed to wrest the WBC featherweight crown, formerly owned by our own Luisito Espinosa. But the feat of having survived Espadas, who had beaten up Espinosa, was awesome enough.

* * *

The Thai visitor wants us to believe he's not lying like you-know-who when he issued the knockout warning to Pacquiao on Wednesday.

Earlier, the Thai was quoted by boxing chronicler Nick Giongco of Today as saying he would ruin Pacquiao's scheduled American campaign.

You see, after Tuñacao dropped his world flyweight crown, we were left with only two international titles, a plum bestowed on the best among fighters rated only 11th and down in a particular division.

Gery Peñalosa, a sharp and skillful stylist, owns the 115-pound version of this title.

Pacquiao reigns in the 122-pound bracket.

A lot, however, is at stake in tomorrow's main event in Kidapawan not only for Pacquiao but also for his horde of Pinoy fans.

To repeat, Pacquiao is scheduled to leave middle of May for a series of exposure fights in the United States.

As his handlers would like to put it, "Manny would be making some noise and attract attention in his American campaign."

* * *

Pacquaio is rated No. 3 super bantamweight contender by the WBC.

But Nick Giongco says many fight experts feel the sensational knockout artist from Gen. Santos should be rated higher.

Now comes this Thai visitor with an unpronounceable name who flaunts a dirty plot to derail Pacquiao's career.

Tomorrow's mainer readily borrows added spice from the fact that Pacquiao had lost his WBC flyweight crown to another Thai, Medgoen 3-K Battery, two years ago.

Actually, Pacquiao, who grew too heavy for the 112-round flyweight limit, had already been stripped of his title after be failed the weight test. Medgoen formalized the dethronement with a knockout win later.

Now this should not truly stun Pacquiao's Thai challenger, but Manny has never lost since he climbed divisions and turned super bantamweight.

After taking the WBC 122-pound international plum in 1999, Pacquiao has beaten four challengers, namely Arnel Barotillo, Seung Kwon Chae Nedal Husssein and Tetsutora Senrima, a Japan-born North Korean.

* * *

Your deadline beater here has been invited to be at ringside for the Pacquiao title defense. Actually Pacquiao is not the type of fighter that delights fans who truly care for the finer rudiments of the Sweet Science.

Yes, he's a hell of a slasher but he's basically a slugger, a raging bull. He normally does not care how much punishment he receives for as long as he's able to give his opponent the worst.

In short, Pacquiao tends to be blinded by his own power.

As a tribute, it must be noted that Pacquiao has scored some of the most memorable knockouts in Philippine boxing.

His clinical execution of Barotillo at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium last year could pass for a classic.

His successful defense of his world flyweight crown against Gabriel Mira earlier at the Araneta Coliseum was an event to remember.

Actually, Pacquiao himself does not hide his plans. He would again go for an early knockout.

Based on his sensational style and record, Pacquiao should not be doubted.

Focus is of course on the Thai challenger. If he loses, Pacquiao would confirm the visitor to be a big liar.

In boxing, though, lying is not a crime. The guilty does not end up in jail like that King of Bluffs in the Philippines. Liars just end up flat cold on the floor.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, April 27, 2001
2nd Week of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 5:34-42**
Gospel: **Jn 6:1-15**

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, near Tiberias, and large crowds followed him because of the miraculous signs they saw when he healed the sick. So he went up into the hills and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.

Then lifting up his eyes, Jesus saw the crowds that were coming to him and said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread so that these people may eat?" He said this to test Philip, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred silver coins would not buy enough bread for each of them to have a piece."

Then one of Jesus' disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?"

Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there so the people, about five thousand men, sat down to rest. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks and distributed them to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish and gave them as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten enough, he told his disciples, "Gather up the pieces left over, that nothing may be lost."

So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with bread, that is with pieces of the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.

When the people saw this sign that Jesus had just given, they said, "This is really the Prophet, he who is to come into the world." Jesus realized that they would come and take him by force to make him king; so he fled to the hills by himself.

Commentary:

What a contrast! The people were all enthused to make Jesus king even by force. But Jesus fled. The people rightly interpreted that what Jesus did—the multiplication of loaves—was a sign of the inauguration of the messianic times. Indeed, Jesus was a new Moses. But the worldly way of power manifestation was a pole apart from Jesus' vision of God's reign, just as it was in Moses who refused to be made as the beginning of a new people apart from his people Israel. The Eucharistic celebrations we have must rightly interpret the church's act of solidarity with the poor and marginalized as signs of the presence of God's reign. But such celebrations must also signify the selfless sharing by the church of the lot of the poor. She shares herself and her resources with the world, especially the poor, not for self-aggrandizement but to proclaim God's reign.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (ADMINISTRATIVE LAW)—Findings of fact of quasi-judicial agencies accorded respect—Findings of quasi-judicial agencies, such as the COA, which have acquired expertise because their jurisdiction is confined to specific matters are generally accorded not only respect but at times even finality if such findings are supported by substantial evidence as in the case at bar. In this era of clogged court dockets, the need for specialized administrative boards or commissions with special knowledge, experience and capability to hear and determine promptly disputes on technical questions or essentially factual matters, subject to judicial review in case of grave abuse of discretion, is imperative. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Purisima, Laysa v. Commission on Audit, G.R. No. 128134, October 18, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Girl allows abuse to be repeated to show friends she's not lying

By Alcuin Papa

A 17-YEAR-OLD girl from Pasay City allowed herself to be molested by a man for the second time so she could show to her friends that she was telling the truth.

The girl accused a 35-year-old friend of her father of molesting her on Wednesday midnight inside her home in Pasay City.

She sought the help of her friends who did not believe her until they saw for themselves how Marlon Bonifacio put his hand up the girl's skirt while she was washing dishes in her house.

The girl told police that she was washing dishes at about 12:05 a.m. on Wednesday when Bonifacio, who is also a relative of her sister's husband, molested her.

She said she ran away and asked her friends for help. But her friends did not believe her and told her to prove her accusation.

The girl then went back to her house with her friends who hid as she again washed the dishes.

This time, the girl's friends saw Bonifacio go to the girl and put his hand up her skirt. They scurried off to report Bonifacio to Barangay Captain Joseph Saria who escorted the girl to the Pasay police station.

She told police that Bonifacio had molested her on three separate incidents. The first time was in February 2001, the second on April 17, and finally Wednesday night.

She also told police that Bonifacio had done the same thing to her sister but her father did not believe her when she told him about it.

Bonfacio, who is now detained at the police station, tearfully denied the girl's accusation.

"I don't know what her motive is for accusing me," he sobbed in Filipino. "I treated her like a relative."

SPO4 Milagros Carrasco, chief of the Women and Children's Desk of the Pasay Police, said Bonifacio would be charged with violation of the Child Abuse Law. *With reports from Allison Lopez and Lorraine Santos*

Fires consume P5 million in Caloocan

By Christian Esguerra

TWO FIRES broke out in Caloocan City early this week which injured five persons and razed at least nine houses and caused about P5 million in property damage.

A two-story house on Ligaya Street, 7th Avenue, Caloocan said to belong to one Edgar Allan Medina, caught fire at about 4 p.m. on Tuesday, FO1 Marcelino Esposo III said.

Rodever Ignacio, 14, JP Dizon, 17, and Buenaventura Caindo, 34, were injured in the fire as they tried to save their belongings, Esposo said.

Caloocan fire investigators said faulty electrical wiring in the bedroom occupied by Renante Tirona, Medina's brother-in-law, triggered the fire which engulfed seven other houses on crowded 7th Avenue.

Firefighters from Caloocan and nearby cities and municipalities responded to the fifth alarm call and had the fire under control at 7 p.m., investigators said.

On Monday, another fire razed two units of a four-door apartment in Bagong Silang, fire investigators said.

Two persons were reportedly injured in the fire. *With Paul Ernest Lazaro and Louie Jon Sanchez*

Brothers charged with complicity . . .

(From page A25)

Chua's body into the Pasig River. But the witnesses did not implicate Genesis' younger brother Jeoffrey.

"But Jeoffrey is still liable for illegal possession of firearms," said Arugay, who said that his men seized an unlicensed .45-cal. pistol, a .22-cal revolver and several rounds of ammunition from the brothers on Tuesday.

"As for the kidnapping charges, we are still consulting with the NBI Legal Department," Arugay added.

The Binagatan brothers were arrested at about 11 p.m. on Tuesday in their house at the corner of Cavite and Elias streets near the Chinese General Hospital in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The Binagatan brothers are both staff sergeants at the UST Reserved Officers Training Course (ROTC) office, formerly under Major Demy Tejares.

Tejares was recently relieved as UST ROTC commandant following allegations of corruption and bribery in his office.

SAU agents, however, have yet to unmask the brains behind Chua's killing. "We are still talking with the suspects and we hope they will reveal the mastermind," Arugay said.

Chua's father, Welson, had accused ROTC officials led by Tejares of masterminding the abduction and the killing of his son.

Tejares had flatly denied the accusations.

Welson said his son caught the ire of ROTC officials and members of the Corps of Cadets for exposing the alleged extortion and other irregularities in the school's ROTC.

Chua, a second year engineering student, and other cadet officers complained that students were required to pay at least P1,500 in exchange for not attending the weekend training throughout the semester.

Chua's expos, came out in the school's campus paper, the Varsitarian.

The witnesses, whose identities are being kept under wraps, are residents of Lawton Plaza, Manila which is near the Pasig River.

They claimed Chua was already dead when he was thrown into the Pasig River on March 18. Chua's parents reported him missing on March 15.

When Chua's body was found three days later at the back of the Bureau of Immigration building, his body bore torture marks and was wrapped in a brown carpet, while his hands and feet were tied with shoelaces and his head wrapped in packing tape.

Sleepy worker falls to death

A SLEEPY carpenter died yesterday when he fell from the third floor of an unfinished building in Makati City while urinating.

Police investigators identified the victim as Danilo Casipe, 39, a stay-in carpenter and a resident of Col. Santos Street in South Cembo, Fort Bonifacio in Makati City.

SPO4 Socrates Fernandez of the Homicide Division of the Makati City Police Office said Casipe's broken body was found at 1:20 a.m. sprawled on the ground floor of a duplex-type residential house on Col. Santos. Casipe's skull was cracked and some of his bones were broken, Fernandez said.

Investigators said Casipe was sleeping on the third floor of the building when he awoke past midnight apparently to urinate. Still drowsy, he went to the side of the structure, which had no walls yet, and accidentally fell off the building.

An unidentified resident who was passing by found the carpenter's dead body and reported the accident to police.

Investigators believe Casipe was urinating when he fell since his zipper was down and his pants were pulled down below his waist. *Alcuin Papa, Allison Lopez and Lorraine Santos*

Forum

THE PHILIPPINEe Social Science Council (PSSC) will hold a forum on opinion surveys to help media practitioners and the public understand how opinion polls can help in voter education rather than voter manipulation.

Social scientists belonging to PSSC member associations will discuss the various facets of public opinion polls on May 4, 2001 at the PSS Center on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Leading the panel of speakers are Dr. Ana Marin Tabunda, dean, UP School of Statistics; Dr. Joseph Lim, professor, UP School of Economics; Randy David, professor, Department of Sociology, University of the Philippines; Amado Mendoza, professor, Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines; and Dr. Ricardo Abad, professor, Department of Sociology-Anthoropology, Ateneo de Manila University.

Interested parties may call Ms. Karen Barrios or Claire Nuyda at 922-96-27. or telefax. 929-26-71 or e-mail psssc@skynet.net, or Prof. Reynaldo Guioguio at renevg@pacific.net.ph.

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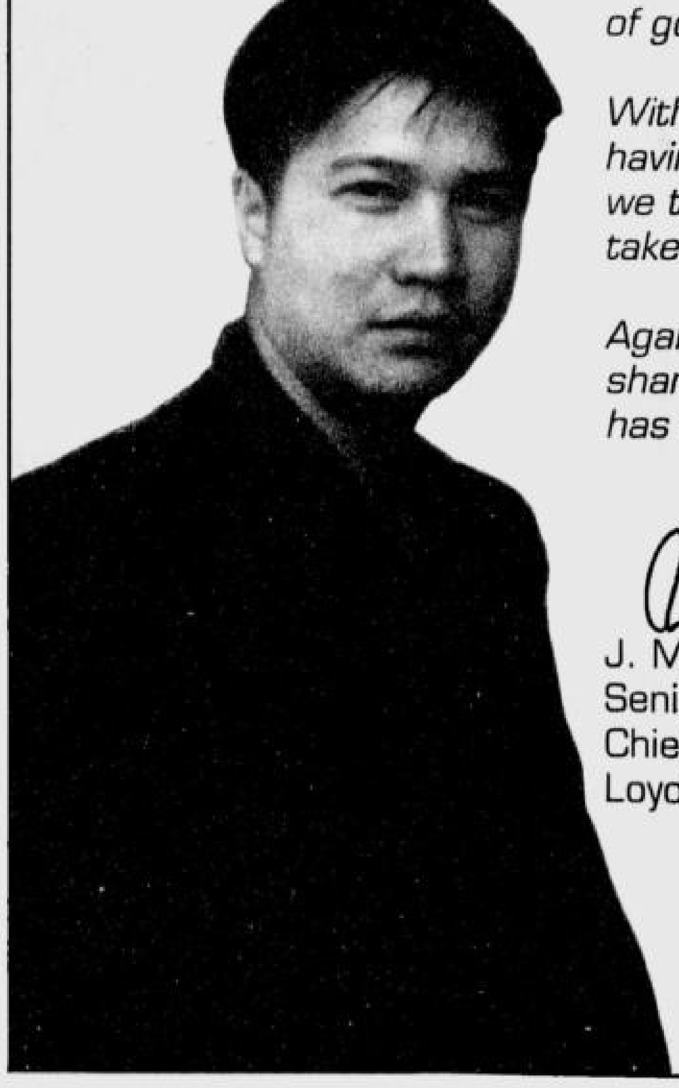

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UPHR Medicine graduation

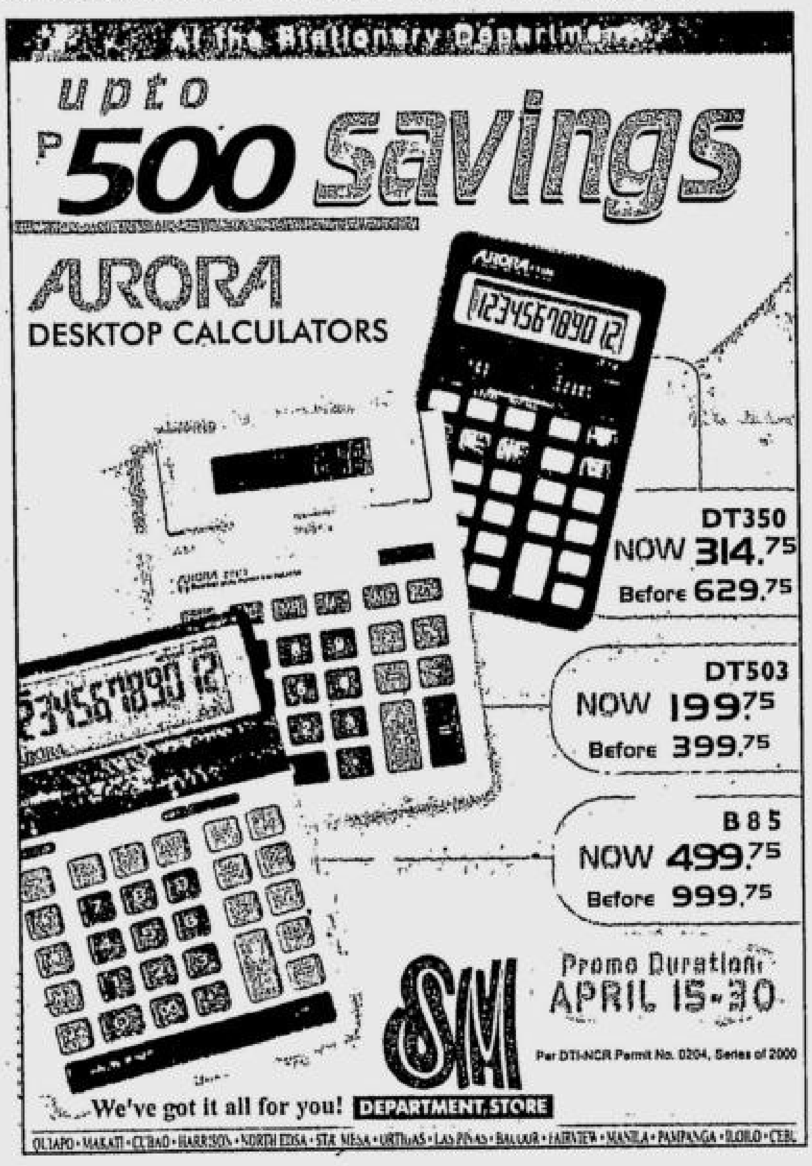
THE JONELTA Foundation School of Medicine-University of Perpetual Help Rizal (UPHR) held its second commencement exercises last Sunday, April 22, 2001, at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Dr. Antonio L. Tamayo is president of the University of Perpetual Help Rizal.

Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan, former health secretary and president-CEO of Friendly Care Foundation Inc., and presidential adviser for political affairs Jose A. Rufino delivered the commencement address to the second batch of JFSM graduates.

Leading the graduation march was cum laude and Presidential Gold Medal awardee Ella Cecilia M. Juan, who also received the Dr. Jose G. Tamayo award.

Other awardees were Janette A. Julio, presidential silver medalist and outstanding clerk of the Department of Medicine; and Leila A. Magsino, presidential bronze medalist. Virgilio Jose A. Evangelista received the Dean's Special Award and Outstanding Clinical Clerk (Department of ENT) award.



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Manila officials, trader accused of overpricing purified water

A CANDIDATE for councilor of the first district of Manila has accused city officials and a shop owner of overpricing the bottled water being supplied to various offices in the Manila City Hall.

In a graft case filed before the Office of the Ombudsman, candidate lawyer Amando Tetangco said the purified drinking water is overpriced by P6O per bottle.

Named respondents in the case are reelectionist Mayor Lito Atienza, secretary to the mayor Emmanuel Sison and Jose Mari L. Medina, owner of the Water Shop Pure Drinking Water at 479-A Aarons Building, Alabang Zapote Road, Las Piñas City.

Charges of violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act were filed against them.

Tetangco alleged that on Sept. 22, 1998 and without the required public bidding, the accused entered into an agreement under which Medina would supply City Hall with purified water for one year, from August 1998 to August 1999 at P110 per five-gallon bottles.

Tetangco said that on Jan. 4, 1999, Medina was paid P37,510 through invoice no. 229 for the delivery of 341 bottles between November and December 1998.

"The amount agreed upon, charged and collected at P110 per bottle is unconscionable because it is more than half the true price, and excessive and grossly disadvantageous since the prevailing retail cost of purified water from suppliers in January 1999 was only P50 per bottle including delivery charger," Tetangco said in his affidavit of complaint.

He said that even Medina's water shop itself had been selling water at only P50 per bottle, as evidenced by an official receipt (no. 0406) which he obtained through an actual purchase made on Jan. 27, 1999.

He said the city auditor also disagreed with the contracted amount of P110 per bottle since the true cost is only P50, as shown by a copy of the inspection report dated Jan. 29, 1999

The report, which was submitted by state auditor I Armand Dimaano and noted by state auditor V Reynaldo Montalbo, noted that the actual price per five-gallon bottle is only P50 and that the use of the water dispenser is free.

Atienza keeps his cool

DESPITE the personal attacks by his rivals, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said he continues to maintain his composure and to stick to his commitment to conduct a principled and issue-oriented campaign.

In a luncheon forum at the Manila Hotel sponsored by the Rotary Club of Manila, his rivals Alfredo Lim and Amado Bagatsing took turns in lambasting Atienza.

Most of the accusations leveled against Atienza have already been answered in the past, an Atienza statement said.

Atienza focused on the gains of his Buhayin ang Maynila urban renewal program as well as the reforms he was able to implement in the city government.

Atienza noted that Lim and Bagatsing have always been hitting him. "I hope they heed my appeal for a principled campaign and use the remaining two weeks of the campaign to educate the voters as to their specific programs, like I have been doing these past four weeks," he said.

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Edu offers medical, hospital discounts for Makati people

MANZANO

MAKATI City residents can avail themselves of medical and hospital discounts anywhere in the country under an expanded health program being conceptualized by Vice Mayor Edu Manzano.

Under Makati's existing health program begun by former Mayor Nemesio Yabut in 1972, residents are given discounts whenever they are treated at the Makati Medical Center. All they need to do is present their cards showing they are members of the Makati health program.

But Manzano said the program's membership has risen to more than 80,000, the bulk of which is made up of indigents. Yet there are only 75 beds at Makati Medical reserved for cardholders.

"Clearly, there is a need to expand the program," said Manzano. "What happens if there is a serious outbreak of dengue or typhoid in the city? Makati Med alone won't be able to handle all the cases. Then we'll have a crisis in our hands."

Manzano said the solution is to convert the health program so that Makati residents can enjoy the same benefits in accredited hospitals or clinics all over the country. "It will work just like those health and medical insurance agencies that service private companies," he said.

Manzano said it was time to revise the city's health program to make it more responsive to the needs of the residents.

"Something needs to be done," he said. "Makati's population has more than doubled since the program was introduced. Yet the number of beds allotted for program members has not increase.

"I see this not merely as an oversight but a sign of gross neglect on the part of the present city administration."

Manzano is running for mayor in next month's elections. He has promised to crack down on corruption that he said has been the hallmark of the past three administrations.

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Drivers for Daboy

SOME 48,000 tricycle drivers and operators in Quezon City have declared support for the candidacy of leading mayoral bet Rudy "Daboy" Fernandez, according to a statement issued by his camp.

The Quezon City Toda Federation, composed of 140 tricycle operators and drivers associations (Toda), joined various groups of jeepney drivers in pledging support for Fernandez's campaign.

In a meeting last Wednesday, QCTODA Federation's Vito Modestomas said the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino mayoral candidate presented to them a political platform aimed at reforming local governance.

QCTODAFED electoral committee chair Jun de la Cruz said Fernandez was the unanimous choice of Toda leaders as deserving of the group's support.

"We have decided that aside from voting Fernandez for mayor, we will also take part in an all-out campaign for his candidacy," Modestomas said.

The tricycle group wants to be consulted before the city government implements ordinances or directives concerning their sector.

"Your role as citizens of this city will not end on May 14," Fernandez told the leaders of the tricycle operators and drivers. "We will steer the city government toward progress through honest and efficient public service. You shall be the passenger and I your humble driver."

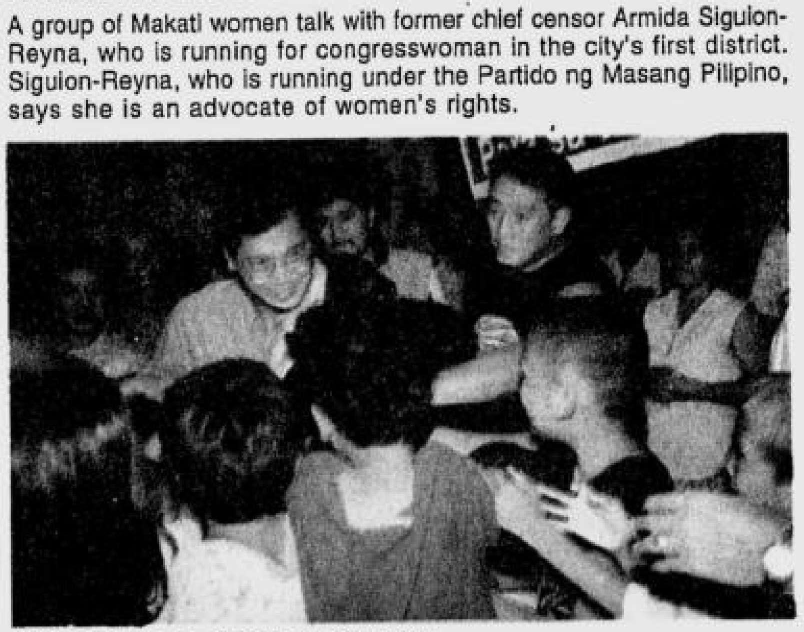
IBOTO! AKLAT PARA SA PARTY LIST

'AKLAT PARA SA LAHAT'

Volunteers of the party-list group AKLAT go around the Novaliches-Bayan area in Quezon City to solicit support for the group in the May 14 elections. AKLAT is pushing for a comprehensive development of the country's grassroots educational system.

ARMIDA FOR WOMEN

A group of Makati women talk with former chief censor Armida Siguion-Reyna, who is running for congresswoman in the city's first district. Siguion-Reyna, who is running under the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, says she is an advocate of women's rights.



ABALOS DRAWS CROWDS

Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos attracts a crowd as he visits Block 32 of the Welfareville Compound in Barangay Addition Hills. Abalos promises to continue his pro-people governance and better basic services.

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Tribute to Laguna on Tessie's TV show

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SOME years ago, **Tessie Tomas** hosted a popular weekday show, "Teysi ng Tahanan," but gave it up so she could give more time to her family. The move was good for her loved ones but bad for her fans, who missed Tessie's unique combination of good sense and humor.

After a period of total absence from the TV screen, however, Tessie is back on the tube with "Feel at Home," a Saturday morning (11 a.m.) show on ABS-CBN. The weekly show is much less hectic than Tessie's weekday program, so doing it doesn't take her away for too long a time from her family.

This may help account for the extra ebullience with which Tessie hosted her show last Saturday, the first time we were able to watch it, when the production devoted its entire hour to various features related to the province of Laguna.

The program's tribute to Laguna started with a feature on the province's most popular *pasalubong* item, the buko pie. **Bojo Molina** helped Tessie interact with three leading exponents of the yummy native delicacy.

Since buko pies are often faked these days, the program could have also given viewers some pointers on how to detect a fake from the real McCoy (before eating it, that is).

In any case, the initial feature unwound with a bracing briskness that kept viewers interested in and even excited about what they were seeing.

Even better, this brisk pacing was sustained throughout the show. Other upbeat features were on puto Biñan, a visit to **James Cooper**'s sprawling provincial spread, and the gustatory delight that is *kesong puti*.

A special feature introduced viewers to the folksy art of Paete-based sculptor **Angelo Baldemor**, whose colorful works are exceptional both on point of technique and appeal.

Also visually delightful was the feature on **Patis Tesoro**'s vacation house, characterized by a creative mix of various styles of décor, and specially highlighted by its use of unusually intricate *banig* patterns on its walls.

In addition, the show also visited five resorts in the province, and gave viewers the lowdown on how they could enjoy the resorts' attraction firsthand, sometime this summer.

Through all of these features, Tessie kept things both informative and lively. The province of Laguna should give Tessie a plaque of appreciation for its one-hour tribute to the best in its culture, traditions and lifestyles!

Aside from "Feel at Home," Tessie is also a regular on the new political satire, "Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata." There's something about the lure of TV that makes it difficult for her to stay away from it for a long time, it seems!

Well, her fans certainly aren't complaining about her current renewed visibility on the tube. And we trust that the members of her family aren't, either. After all, two days on TV in one week is a much lighter schedule than the five shows a week she used to do some years ago.

CMMA media fare

THE FIRST Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) media fare will be held from May 3 to 5 at Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall B, Mandaluyong City. Admission is free.

Exhibits will be put up by various media companies. Previous finalists and winners of the CMMA and other award-winning bodies will be showcased. There will be a sale of media products, plus symposia and workshops on new trends in media.

CMMA 2001 will be launched, and nominations for the awards will be accepted. Schools participating in the media fare include UP, UST, La Salle, Ateneo, St. Scholastica, Miriam College and Letran College. Call 867-4026.

Young Filipino filmmakers picked to attend Discovery Channel workshop in Singapore

KIDLAT de Guia and Augusto Quesada are the two Filipino filmmakers who were selected to participate in the two-day all-expense paid Discovery Channel filmmaking Workshop in Singapore today, April 27.

In the first-ever Discovery Channel's first-time filmmaker project in Asia, Kidlat de Guia, a 25-year-old Broadcasting Communications graduate from the University of the Philippines and Augusto Quesada, also from the same state university, bested 62 other entrants from the Philippines.

Quesada's entry focused on his ancentral home town of Paete, Laguna. The idyllic place was first discovered by the Franciscan friars in 1598. It was a thriving village of inhabitants who were skillfully carving figures from wood.

Eventually Christianized, these woodcarvers turned their skill to carving saints and religious figures. Over the years, commercialization has ironically converted this tradition of beautiful religious carvings into mass produced Santa Claus and reindeers for the European markets.

The entry of De Guia explored the impact of westernization on the culture of the Igorots' way of life started to slowly find itself on the way out. De Guia moved into an Ifugao village. He employed the very technology that threatened the culture of the Igorots to reawaken the interest of the villagers to the wisdom of their forefathers.

The workshop will involve 10 other filmmakers from Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Taiwan. One of the Filipino filmmakers will be selected to make a half-hour documentary for Discovery Channel.

Discovery Channel's Time Film Makers project had its debut in Europe in 1995. This was followed in 1996 with a six-hour series on post-apartheid South Africa. Two years after, six German emerging filmmakers examined the issues confronting the German society in post-Berlin Wall era.

By year 2000, Discovery Channel Europe commissioned Eco Warriors composed of Dutch producers for a series on environmental activism. Before the end of 2000, young Australian filmmakers focused in the six-part Southern Exposure series, on contemporary Australian passions and issues.

The selected Filipino filmmakers will work within an appropriate budget and will be provided production advisors to complete his project.

He will have the unique opportunity to have his first international film broadcast on Discovery Channel around the region and be among those who are now successful in their own rights in international documentary making.

As the world's leading global real-world media and entertainment company, Discovery Channel's combined networks reach subscriber households in 152 countries worldwide.

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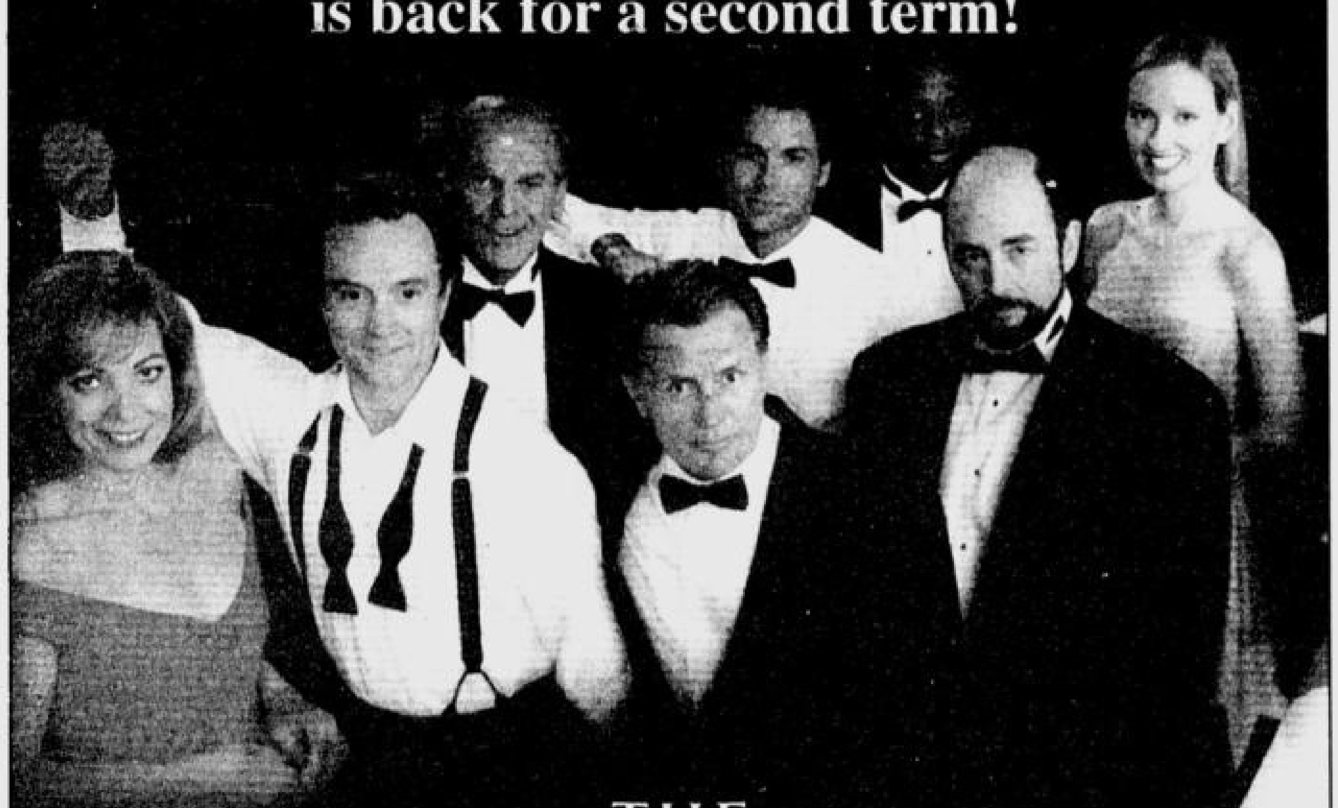
The critically-acclaimed hit series that won a record-breaking 9 Emmy Awards is back for a second term!



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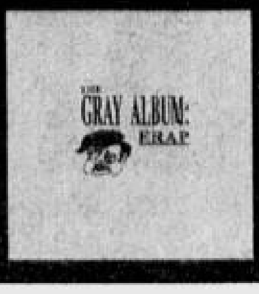
THE WHITE ALBUM: ERAP



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6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	MADERASO
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER

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3	DTS	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MADERASO
7	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
8	DOLBY SURROUND	XTREME WARRIORS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	AIR BUD 3

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2	DOLBY SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
5	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
10	DOLBY SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
11	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	DOLBY SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	ANTI-TRUST
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
8	DOLBY SURROUND	XTREME WARRIORS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
11	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	EVANGELINE 14
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	XTREME WARRIORS
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
7	DTS	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE CROW
10	DOLBY SURROUND	XTREME WARRIORS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
12	DOLBY SURROUND	AIR BUD 3

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
2	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
5	ULTRA SURROUND	XTREME WARRIORS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
9	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
10	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA

SM CEBU 2313076

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
5	ULTRA SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	

SM ILOILO 3208422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BILLY ELLIOT
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
6	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE CROW
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MADERASO
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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5	GOLD (DOLBY)	ANTI-TRUST
6	GOLD (SDDS)	THE CROW
7	GOLD (DOLBY)	THE MEXICAN
8	[illegible]	AIR BUD 3
9	[illegible]	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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2	WOMAN ON TOP

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1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
A	XTREME WARRIOR

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	
3	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1	(DOLBY)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2		RESERVE
3		RESERVE
4		ATTACK FORCE
5		THE CROW
6		XTREME WARRIOR
7	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN
8	(SDDS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
9	(DOLBY)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3		MADERASO
4	(SDDS)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
5		XTREME WARRIOR
6	(DOLBY)	ATTACK FORCE
7	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN
8		RESERVE
9		RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3		XTREME WARRIOR
4		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	(SDDS)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6		SWEET NOVEMBER
7	(DOLBY)	ATTACK FORCE
8		MADERAZO

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1		NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
2		THE MEXICAN
3	(DTS)	XTREME WARRIOR
4		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	(SDDS)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	(DOLBY)	
7	(DOLBY)	

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

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1	THE MEXICAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	RESERVE
4	XTREME WARRIOR

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(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	THE MEXICAN
2	MADERAZO
3	ATTACK FORCE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	XTREME WARRIOR

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	MADERAZO
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	EVANGELINE 14
4	XTREME WARRIOR
5	ATTACK FORCE
6	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	XTREME WARRIOR
3	MADERAZO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1		SWEET NOVEMBER
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	(DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	(DOLBY)	THE MEXICAN
4		THE SEDUCER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	(SDDS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2		MADERAZO
3		XTREME WARRIOR
4	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1	(DOLBY)	SWEET NOVEMBER
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN
4		THE SEDUCER
5		PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	THE MEXICAN
3	THEY NEST

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	THE MEXICAN
3	THEY NEST

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	THE GIFT
2	ABAKADA..INA
3	THE SEDUCER

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	THE MEXICAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	SINS OF THE NIGHT
3	INIT SA DUGO
4	THEY NEST

Cabuyao
CINEMAS TEL. (049) 5314808

1	(DTS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	(DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ALIW MASARAP ANG BAWAL
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	MADERASO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	ABAKADA..INA
3	THE SEDUCER
4	AIR BUD 3

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	ATTACK FORCE
2	XTREME WARRIOR

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	ABAKADA..INA
2	XTREME WARRIOR
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	MS CONGENIALITY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	(DOLBY EX)	THE MEXICAN
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3		SWEET NOVEMBER
4	(DTS EX)	THE CROW

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'Crossover' series presents Jaya at in Davao concert

JAYA, the country's only soul diva, graces The Venue in Davao as 93.1 Crossover takes the newest concert series to the South this month.

Get ready for "Crossover Presents Jaya on Fire," April 28 at The Venue in Davao.

"Crossover Presents" is a monthly concert series that features a select group of session musicians spiced with a dose of comedy and instrumental music. It was launched on April 5 with Lani Misalucha at Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila.

Catered for upscale listeners, "Crossover Presents" repertoire is a combination of contemporary jazz and smooth R&B. It also distinguishes itself from other ordinary series by featuring the country's top artists.

Jaya, who first gained recognition by winning the grand prize in the Metropop Song Festival, is now one of the industry's top concert performers and recording artists.

She has given us some of the most beautiful OPM songs like "Dahil Ba sa Kanya," "Wala Na Bang Pag-ibig," "Dahil Tanging Ikaw" and "Sometimes You Just Know."

Proof of which are the high sales of her latest CD, "Honesty" and the success of her "Jaya on Fire" series for Crossover.

For ticket inquiries, call 93.1 Crossover Davao at 222-2931, 222-0931 or The Venue at 224-4150.

"Crossover Presents Jaya" in Davao is presented by Cebu Pacific, Rejoice, Safeguard and Don Henrico's, with Biogesic, Marco Polo Davao and Mindanao Daily Mirror.

JAYA. Soul diva

Young . . .

(From page A29)

Discovery Networks, International (DNI), a division of DCI, includes Discovery Channel, Discovery Kids, Discovery Health, Discovery Home & Leisure, Animal Planet, People-Arts, Discovery Sci-Trek, Discovery Travel and Adventure, Discovery Civilization and Discovery Wings.

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ERMITA
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❶	THE MEXICAN
❷	SWEET NOVEMBER
❸	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
❹	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
❺	ABAKADA...INA
❻	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
❼	ANTI TRUST

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❶	THE MEXICAN
❷	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
❸	ABAKADA...INA
❹	SWEET NOVEMBER
❺	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
❻	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

BACOLOD
(034)441-0463

❶	THE GIFT
❷	THE MEXICAN
❸	AIR BUD 3
❹	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
❺	QUILLS
❻	THE SEDUCER

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ABAKADA . INA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ANTI-TRUST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE CROW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE MEXICAN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ATTACK FORCE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	XTREME WARRIORS
MIRAMAR	VIRGIN WIFE/TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
ODEON-2	XTREME WARRIORS
ROBEN	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
TANDEM-1	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
TANDEM-2	EVANGELINE 14
TIMES	VERTICAL LIMIT /WHERE IS MY CAR

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	XTREME WARRIORS
QUEZON-1	XTREME WARRIORS
REMAR	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
REMAR-2	3 000 MILES TO GRACELAND

CUBAO

OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-2	GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ATTACK FORCE
CINEMA-2	MADERASO
CINEMA-3	THE CROW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUGRATS IN PARIS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DOUBLE TAKE
CINEMA-6	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CINEMA-7	THE SEDUCER
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-12	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-14	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-15	ABAKADA . INA

LORES

CINEMA-2	DI MATIGIL ANG INIT / HIYAS
CINEMA-3	MS CONGENIALITY

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	DOUBLE TAKE
CINEMA-2	RUGRATS IN PARIS
CINEMA-3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-4	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-5	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN

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THE MEXICAN
(PG - RT - 2:02)
Action-Adventure-Romance-Comedy
Starring:
Julia Roberts
Brad Pitt
James Gandolfini

April 27 - Friday
6:15 PM - The Mexican
8:45 PM - The Mexican
(Blocked-Off: Ateneo Law School)
11:15 PM - The Mexican

GET A COPY of the 4th issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema featuring WOMEN IN CHINA

Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

Gel Santos-Relos on leaving: 'This is what I want'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

NEWSCASTER **Gel Santos-Relos** didn't have any qualms about giving up her enviable career in Philippine broadcasting to migrate to the United States with her husband.

Next week, Gel will join her husband, Dr. **Rene Relos**, who is taking up a fellowship in medicine in Minneapolis. She will bring along their children—**Misty**, 13; **Katrina**, 4; and **Renzo**, 3. The eldest, **Christopher**, 16, joined his father earlier.

The family will settle in New Jersey, where Gel is set to work as a marketing manager in a nursing home owned by her aunt.

Gel said she and her husband toyed with the idea of migrating to the US back in 1990, after he completed his medicine course at the UP-PGH. They had only two kids at that time.

"He had an offer to work in the States but I had just started my first TV program on ABS-CBN, 'Tatak Pilipino,' and he gave way to what I was doing because he knew that was what I wanted," Gel relates. "I guess it was not meant to be at that time. But little did we know that we would be at the same crossroads 10 years later and with two more children.

"Now, it's my turn to give way. My husband wants to practice his profession in the States and he wants us to be together as a family, so I had to decide."

Two years ago, Gel and her husband separated. She even filed for annulment, but withdrew it even before the judge could make a decision.

Last year, however, they realized they still love each other and renewed their marriage vows in a church ceremony, which included their four children.

"We have to go through dramas in life," Gel says. "But that strengthened our marriage and made us better persons. We found each other again."

Gel says it was hard for her to make the decision. "My family is so important to me that's why there was no struggle whether to leave or not. I can't imagine my husband and I being apart again. Nothing and no one can stop me."

She admits that living in another country scares her, but she also looks forward to life in the US.

"It was like in the beginning of our marriage when I did everything for the family. I was the nanny, cook, mother and wife. Now, I feel like a bride again—new house, new car, new way of living.

"But I'm sure it will keep us closer together because there will be only us. It will also be more financially stable for my husband because doctors earn a lot in the States."

She also wants to spend more time for her family when they live in New Jersey.

"I had the sweet taste of being in the industry," Gel allows. "I've been with ABS-CBN for 12 years, with different kinds of programs. I've experienced being at the peak of my career. In the States, I look forward to us being complete again as a family."

She resigned from ABS-CBN where she used to anchor the late-evening newscast, "Headlines," and hosted a daily radio show on dzMM. She denies any bad blood between her and her bosses.

"After my contract expired last December, **Freddie Garcia** said they would renew it, but I was in a dilemma. I wanted to tell him about my plan. At that time, my husband and I were already planning to migrate to the States. I merely asked to take a vacation and told Freddie that I would settle something in the States for the future of my children."

Gel spent the yearend holidays in the US. When she returned to the Philippines, she was already determined to leave ABS-CBN.

"It was no longer a surprise for my bosses when I submitted my resignation. I just had to apologize to them because they heard about my decision from the grapevine before they saw my resignation letter. I did my farewell radio broadcast on dzMM on Holy Wednesday.

"The reorganization in the network only affirmed my decision. I don't want that kind of stress. But I did not leave ABS-CBN with a heavy heart. In fact, my bosses even told me that I could help them one day in the ABS-CBN expansion on the East Coast."

Gel says that being on TV often took her away from her family.

"When I was doing 'Pulso,' I had to stay up late every night. At the time I was working, my children would not see me at home. And when I was home, they were not. We could not have family time together. When we move to the States, I want to invest more time in my family."

She also plans to return to school, possibly at the New York University, and take up multi-disciplinary studies and get a humanities or social-science degree.

"I am not sacrificing anything. This is what I want."

Mario as TV host

"TV Patrol" entertainment reporter **Mario Dumaual** is doing more than field work now. Last Saturday, Mario faced the TV cameras as host of ABS-CBN's weekly program, "Scandals, Intrigues and Mysteries" or "SIM."

The show is patterned after the real-life accounts on E! Channel's "True Hollywood Stories," combined with "Mysteries and Scandals."

Mario hosts the show with news anchor **Gigi Grande** on Saturdays, 5 to 5:30 p.m. The new show replaced "Barangay Dos," which used to be hosted by senatorial candidate **Kiko Pangilinan** and **Karen Davila**.

The pilot episode of "SIM" featured the stories of former child actress **Julie Vega**, who died as a teenager, and controversial American star **Dovie Beams**, who was rumored to be the girlfriend of the late President **Ferdinand Marcos**.

The pilot was obviously well-researched. This Saturday, it will focus on the unsolved murder case of talent manager **Rey de la Cruz** and the Big Four mafia of the '60s, allegedly the syndicate that went up against former President **Joseph Estrada** and action king **Fernando Poe Jr.**

Even if he has a new show, however, Mario will not abandon his field reporting chores for "TV Patrol" and "Headlines," which, he says, are his bread and butter.

"But I hope 'SIM' will last," Mario says. "We have so many untold stories from the past."

A hit for Aga, Joyce

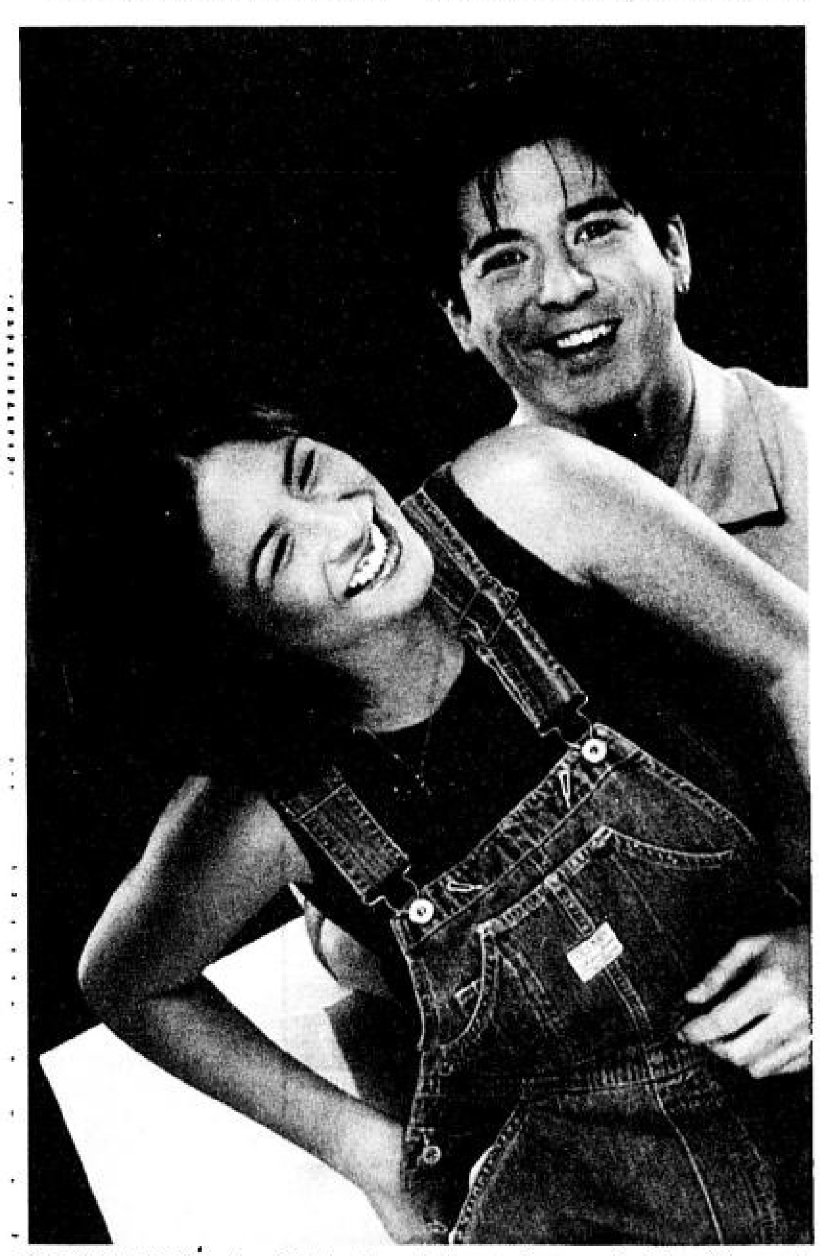
NOT all Tagalog movies make money these days. But one huge box office hit this week is the **Aga Muhlach-Joyce Jimenez** romantic comedy, "Narinig Mo na Ba ang L8est?," produced by Star Cinema.

The film made nearly P5 million on its opening day last Wednesday, despite the turmoil over the arrest of former President Estrada. It's as if the people opted to be entertained by watching a movie, rather than watch the coverage of the deposed president's arrest.

The success of "Narinig Mo na Ba ang L8est?" proves that Aga can still open a movie with any leading lady, despite the recent announcement about his altar date with actress-beauty queen Charlene Gonzales.

"Narinig Mo na Ba ang L8est?" is written and directed by Joey Reyes. It is the first team-up of Aga and Joyce, who are also seen weekly in the ABS-CBN sitcom, "The Body and the Guard."

ALL IN THE FAMILY. Gel Santos-Relos, husband Dr. Rene Relos and their kids (back) Christopher and Misty, and (seated) Katrina and Renzo.



PLEASE PASS. Aga Muhlach and Joyce Jimenez in Star Cinema's "Narinig Mo na Ba ang L8est?"

DUMAUAL. From field reporting to TV hosting.

OPENS TODAY
ZOREN LEGASPI
PG-13
with CYNTHIA LUSTER
X-TREME WARRIORS

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

DOUBLE TAKE - P 13 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	RUGRATS IN PARIS - G 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST - P 13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:40, 11:35
SWEET NOVEMBER - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND - R 18 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	THE MEXICAN - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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AYALA CINEMAS
LATE NIGHT SCREENINGS
LATE NIGHT SCREENING SCHEDULES FOR APRIL 27 (Fri.), 2001
THE MEXICAN
BRAD PITT JULIA ROBERTS
(MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13)
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
12:00 NN / 2:20 PM / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:10 / 11:30
GLORIETTA 1 (QUAD)
12:10 PM / 2:45 / 5:20 / 7:55 / 10:30
GLORIETTA 4
11:35 AM / 2:10 PM / 4:45 / 7:20 / 9:55
1:40 PM / 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25 / 12:00 MN
GREENBELT
12:55 PM / 3:30 / 6:05 / 8:40 / 11:15
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THE MEXICAN

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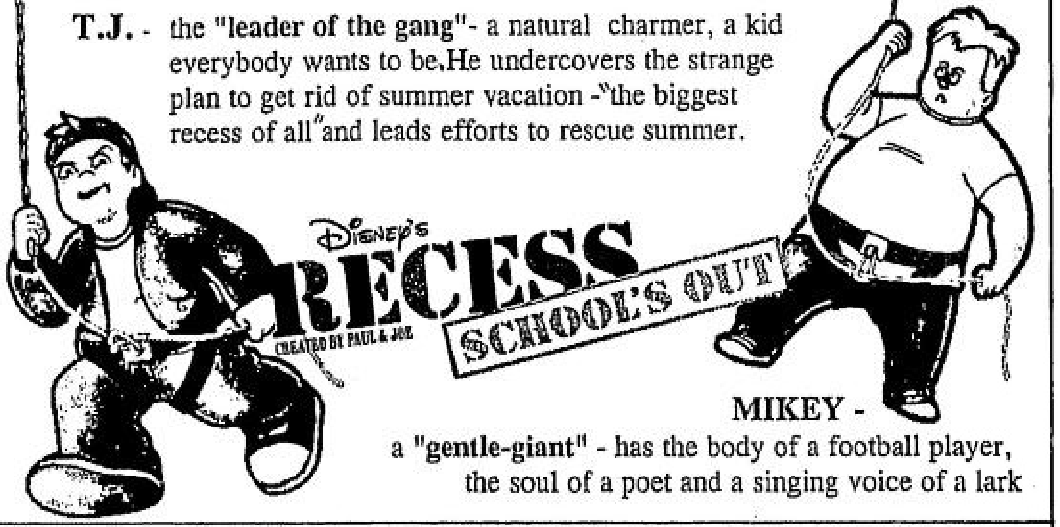
MIKEY - a "gentle-giant" - has the body of a football player, the soul of a poet and a singing voice of a lark
OPENS IN CINEMAS MAY 1



Praying to the god of TV

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

HURRAY for all of us **Ally Mc Beal** fanatics. The new season of "Ally McBeal" is underway. RPN 9 is finally airing new episodes.

Ditto with "The Practice." Tuesdays are now the best time for primetime TV viewing, with "Ally" at 8 p.m., "The Practice" at 9 p.m., and back-to-back episodes of the 2nd season of "Sex in the City" on HBO at 10:30 which must mean the 3rd season is coming very soon.

My VCR is recording the whole night of Tuesday, since Tuesday is my dinner and praying night.

Speaking of TV, my cable is back to SKY. Home Cable sent people from the head office Monday lunchtime to check on what happened and my cable mix-up was quickly solved.

I've been missing the Fox News Channel because it handles the news in a more controversial and attention-getting manner, as opposed to the statesman-like approach of CNN. I also miss Star World for its every weeknight airing of "Friends."

If there's a TV god out there, I hope the merger of SKY and Home happens immediately.

***

I caught the sneak preview of "Exit Wounds" Monday night.

First of all, if the summer heat is driving you crazy because you can't stop yourself from sweating, go to Greenbelt's cinemas. It was freezing cold in the theater, definitely cold enough to warrant a sweater or leather jacket, no exaggeration!

"Exit Wounds," which is the comeback film of **Steven Seagal**, is violent, excessively bloody at times in its treatment of the death scenes, but it is so morbidly fascinating that you can't help but get an adrenaline rush. I loved the movie.

I've been a Steven Seagal fan since his "Hard to Kill" and "Under Siege" days in the early '90s, and this movie is one of his better ones.

I credit Seagal for his ability to adapt to the times. He or his producers knew enough to share the screen with **DMX**.

My knowledge of rap is limited to **Will Smith**, **Sisqo** and **Eminem**, but I was told that DMX is popular with the hard-core fans because he has "street cred." DMX is gorgeous, his face has the sculptured, masculine appeal of **Denzel Washington**. And for a rap artist, he gave his character of a morally ambiguous avenging older brother a convincing amount of soul.

"Exit Wounds" isn't for the squeamish. Neither is it for those who are looking for a deep storyline, romantic cinematography, sensitive acting, or subtle dialogue. But it's perfect if you are appreciative of the "Die Hard," "Lethal Weapon" or "Bad Boys" type of big explosions, well-choreographed fight scenes and juvenile wit.

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest, for entertainment value and over-all fun, "Exit Wounds" is a 4.5.

***

I'm weird, I love commercials. It's the season for political ads and some have really been outstanding.

Tops on my list for lighting that's worthy of **Romy Vitug** and that makes the candidate exceptionally handsome yet human enough to be considered *kapamilya* is **Ralph Recto**'s commercial. He delivers his spiel naturally, with the right mixture of warmth and intelligence, just like the *kuya* whose achievements we are very proud of.

For recall and getting the right message across about the candidate's principles and human side (who can forget or resist the little boy saying "'Di na tayo iiyak, 'no"?) an award should go to **Frank Drilon**'s "Big Man sa Senado" ad.

For cuteness, good humor, and sheer smarts in turning the candidate's "shortcomings" to his advantage, the basketball ad of **Juan Flavier** is tops.

For playing against type, by having a tough guy do the laundry and likening him to the best-selling detergent for the washing machine, a salute to the ad agency of **Ping Lacson**.

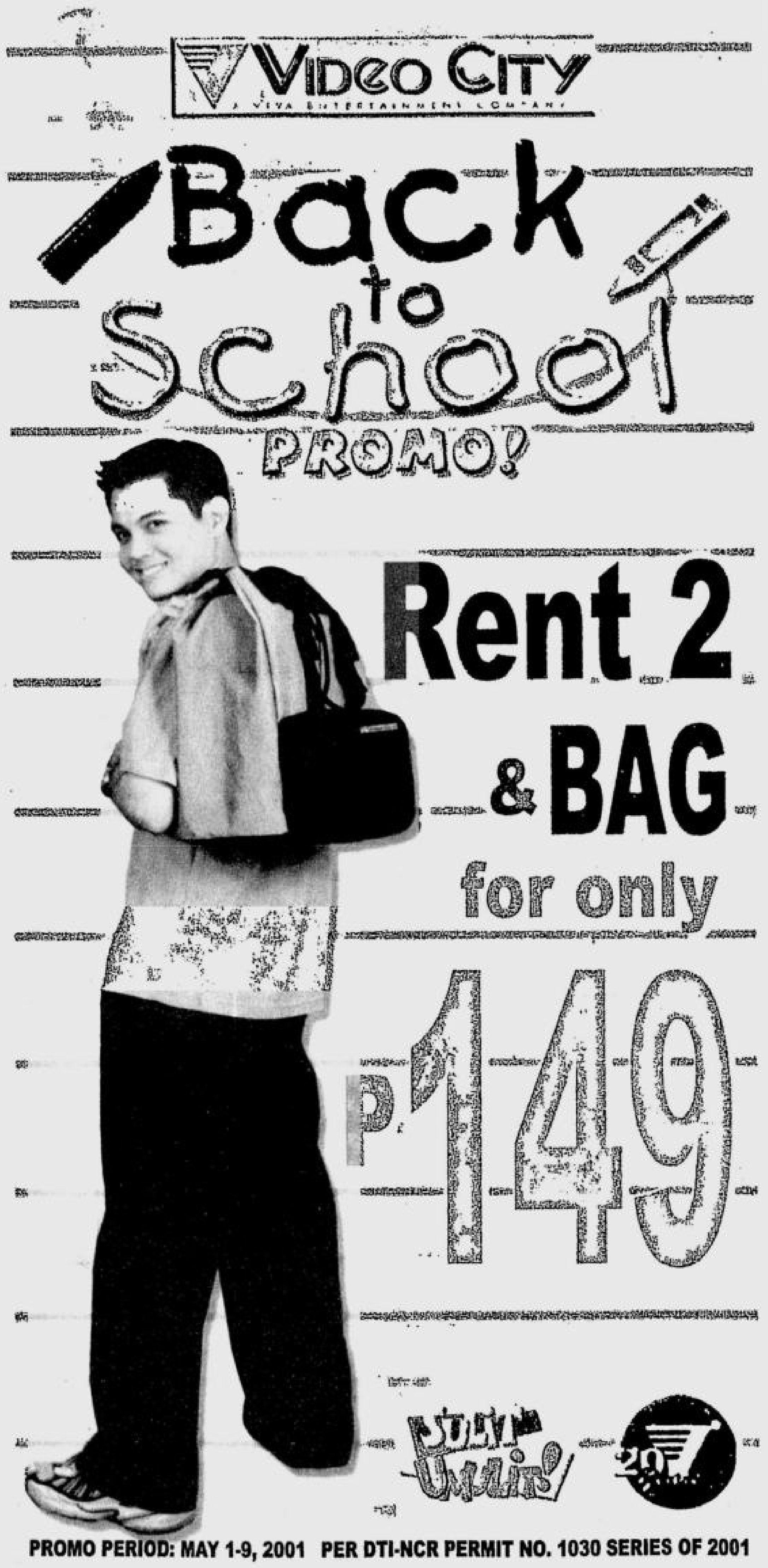
Joker Arroyo has a simple, documentary style ad, but the voiceover they used is so convincing and brimming with dignity that it puts the candidate head and shoulders above the rest. Said in a different tone, "Senador walang takot" would have come across as boastful and arrogant but in Joker's ad you feel his experience and hard-earned moral authority.

Lastly, because he embraced the contribution of his megastar family and allowed us to get a glimpse of the latest addition to his family while still being able to state his platform, I applaud **Kiko Pangilinan**'s 30-second spot.

After May 14, we'll know if their ads have been effective in selling the candidates. But more importantly, after their victories, we will see if there really is truth in advertising.

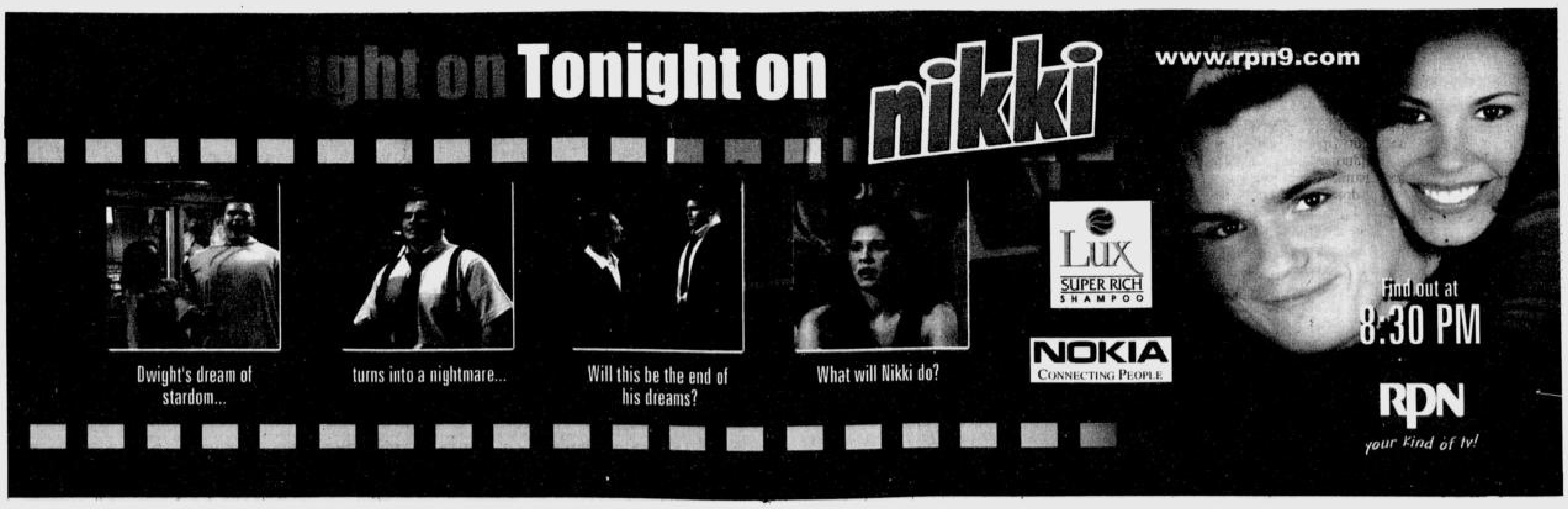
ESCAPE AT SUBURBIA AND PADI'S

Escape has been continuously making waves with their new female frontliner Yosha, whose vocal prowess leaves audiences in awe with her stirring rendition of songs from Cece Peniston, Incognito, Crystall Waters and D'Sound. Joining Yosha onstage is male vocalist Rommel Lumanog. Other members of the group are bassist Philip Arriola, guitarist Adam Cesante, drummer Kris Talatad and keyboardist Mike Velasco. Catch them at Suburbia Malate on Wednesdays and at Padi's Mindanao Ave. on Fridays.



VIDEO CITY
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
Back to School PROMO!
Rent 2 & BAG for only P149
Sulit Umulit!
PROMO PERIOD: MAY 1-9, 2001 PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1030 SERIES OF 2001

"Now, I want everything to last."
The same is true in Kris Aquino's choice of tiles. Her floor, all covered by Eurotiles, says it all—scratch-free even in the face of son Joshua's roughest toys.
Eurotiles, the tough ceramic tiles, last for a very long time. With over 400 beautiful designs to suit every home, each tile is made using superior European technology for durability and strength.
"Good as forever." Take it from Kris.
EUROTILES SUPERIOR CERAMIC TILES
Eurotiles Industrial Corporation Diplomat Building, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City Tel. 551-1077 Fax 832-3079
Styled to last.



Tonight on nikki
www.rpn9.com
Dwight's dream of stardom...
turns into a nightmare...
Will this be the end of his dreams?
What will Nikki do?
Lux SUPER RICH SHAMPOO
NOKIA CONNECTING PEOPLE
Find out at 8:30 PM
RPN your kind of tv!

ELECTROWORLD
Your Biggest Business Store Network
1 inch thick only
weighs 1.3 kgs.
IBM Thinkpad X20
Intel Celeron 600 Mhz
64MB System memory
10GB Hard Drive
56K Modem
1.44MB FDD
12.1" TFT
Li-ion battery
Windows 98 2nd Edition
BUNDLED WITH 24X external USB CD ROM Drive
CASH PRICE
P69,995
24 months installment
P4330only*
*24 months installment computed using Diner's credit card
FOR INQUIRIES CALL: 8931765 / 8123877

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2001
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Equitable PCI
BANK
MEMBER PDIC
BancNet

Bangko Sentral keeps rates steady

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday decided to keep its overnight rates steady following the peso's recent volatility on political jitters and weak regional currencies.

The overnight borrowing rate is at 9.5 percent and the lending rate at 12.0 percent.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday the bank would watch out for the inflation report for April and the direction to be taken by the US Federal Reserve in its meeting on May 15 before deciding on cutting rates anew.

"We will wait for the inflation numbers and the Fed action in May," Buenaventura told reporters.

The Bangko Sentral, after hiking key interest rates by four percentage points in October to defend the peso's plunge due to the political crisis that eventually led to President Estrada's ouster, has eased rates by 5.5 percentage points since December.

Buenaventura said analysts were expecting the US regulators to bring down short-term interest rates further by another half-percentage point to 4 percent in May after a similar, unexpected rate reduction in the middle of this month.

Provided that inflation remains modest, the BSP chief said a cut in US rates in May could again prompt the policy-making Monetary Board to bring down the BSP's overnight rates.

Buenaventura said Washington's efforts to buoy the American economy after recent economic data revealed that it was slowing down faster than expected is a welcome development specially for the local export sector.

A cut in interest rates leads to lower bank lending rates, encourages the private sector to borrow to put up new businesses or expand existing ones.

The BSP stressed that its lower policy rates would continue for as long as inflation remains manageable. A cut in BSP rates lead to a similar movement in the government's benchmark borrowing rate, which consequently influences bank lending rates.

Commenting on the peso, Buenaventura said latest political developments had contributed to the weakening of the unit.

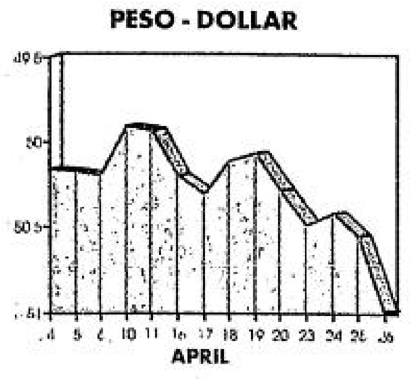
"The exchange rate movement is not interest rate-related so there was no reason to adjust upward or downward (the BSP's overnight rates)," Buenaventura said.

"There is temporary jitteriness in the market because of fear of violence," he said. Police said that Estrada's supporters at the Edsa Shrine—the rallying point for a people power revolt that forced him from office in January—had swelled.

The stock market closed lower with most blue chips posting huge losses largely on jitters over street protests. The Philippine debt market closed flat in the face of a weak currency and continuing political uncertainties. *With a report from Reuters*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 51.00 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 26, 2001

¥ 122.44 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 122.54 as of 5 p.m., April 26, 2001

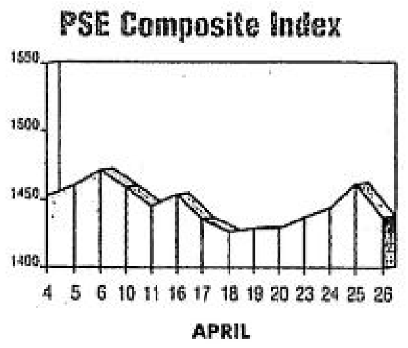
GOLD:$261.90/262.40
per ounce Hong Kong, April 26, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares fall 1.7%

SHARE prices fell 1.7 percent on yesterday due to the weakening peso and concerns about street protests that followed the jailing of former President Joseph Estrada.

"The Estrada supporters probably caused some apprehension. There's no saying to what extent they'll disobey the law or cause chaos. As we saw yesterday they were really quite violent," said Warren Chua of Mercantile Securities.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES/ B2

Taiwan's Acer to expand Subic operations

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SHAKING off the jitters of last year's Manila-Taipei air row, Taiwanese PC maker Acer Corp. is expanding its Subic plant to include the production of desktop computers.

Acer, through its wholly owned subsidiary Acer Information Products (Philippines) Inc., obtained pioneer incentives from the Board of Investments for the assembly of desktop computers in its $120-million production facility at the Subic Bay freeport zone. The Subic plant is Acer's biggest outside Taiwan.

Government agencies and industry organizations certified as pioneer Acer's project in the large-scale manufacture of desktop computer units in the country.

Acer expects to produce 150,000 units a year of the Acer Veriton FP2 at an average retail price of $804 per unit. Acer has earmarked 90 percent of its output would be shipped to Europe, the United States and Asia. The expansion to desktop computers would cost P30 million and create 102 new jobs.

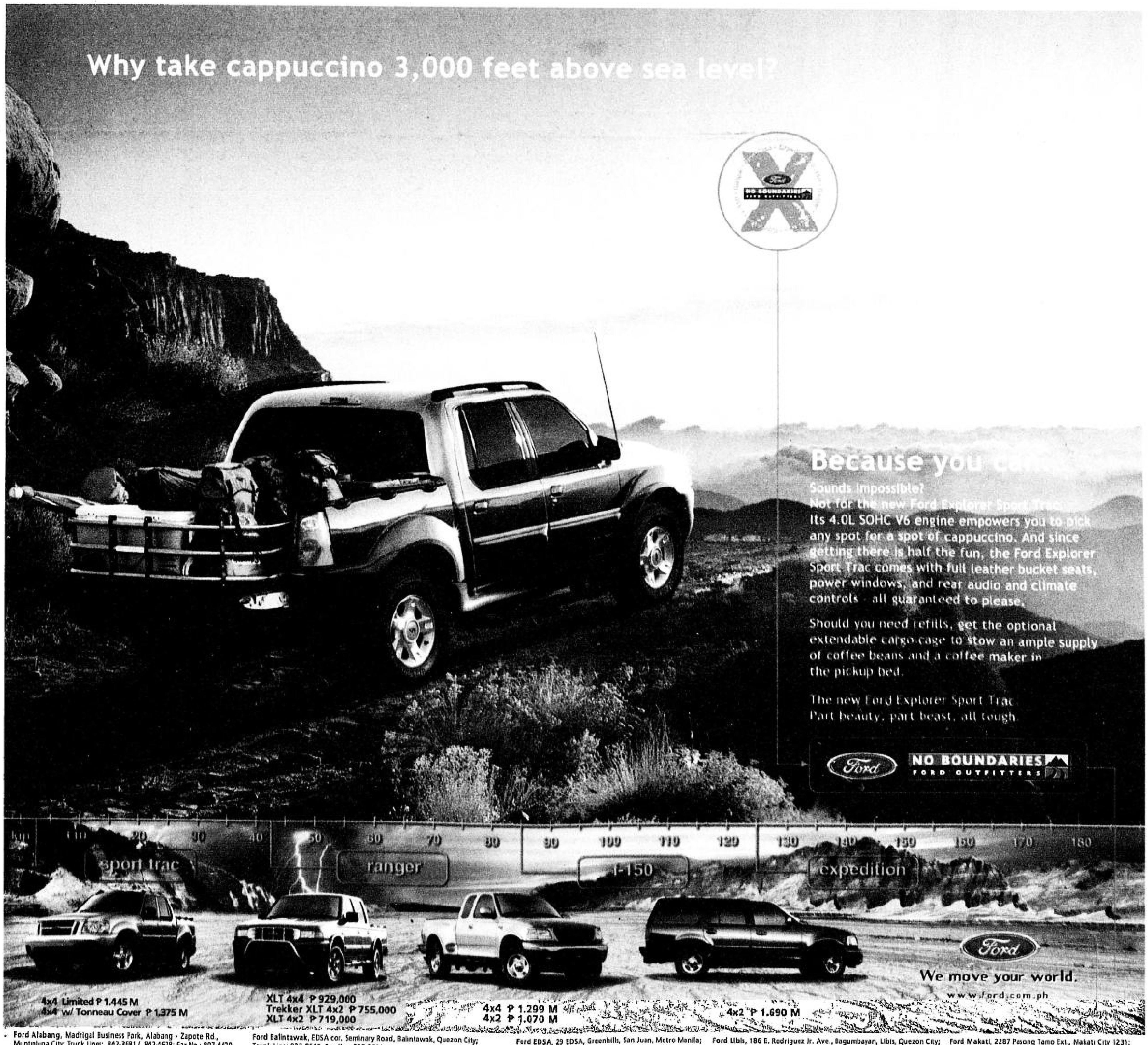
Acer has been operating at the Subic freeport since 1995, churning out computer notebooks, base units, motherboards and add-on cards.

Its operations, however, were ruffled last year due to a suspension of flights between the Philippines and Taiwan after the Civil Aeronautics Board, reportedly on the instigation of Philippine Airlines, accused Taiwan's China Airlines and Eva Air of violating the provisions of an interim air agreement.

Acer complained that the renewed ban on Taiwanese air carriers severely delayed the delivery of the bulk of its inputs from Taiwan and derailed the shipment of its finished goods.

It has a just-in-time production system which reduces inventory costs because the raw materials are delivered in time for their deployment in the production line. Acer said 60 percent to 70 percent of its inputs were shipped through Taiwan's Eva Air (the balance is accounted for by Federal Express)

TAIWAN'S/ B2



Because you ca

Sounds impossible?
Not for the new Ford Explorer Sport Trac.
Its 4.0L SOHC V6 engine empowers you to pick any spot for a spot of cappuccino. And since getting there is half the fun, the Ford Explorer Sport Trac comes with full leather bucket seats, power windows, and rear audio and climate controls - all guaranteed to please.

Should you need refills, get the optional extendable cargo cage to stow an ample supply of coffee beans and a coffee maker in the pickup bed.

The new Ford Explorer Sport Trac
Part beauty, part beast, all tough.

4x4 Limited ₱ 1.445 M
4x4 w/ Tonneau Cover ₱ 1.375 M

XLT 4x4 ₱ 929,000
Trekker XLT 4x2 ₱ 755,000
XLT 4x2 ₱ 719,000

4x4 ₱ 1.299 M
4x2 ₱ 1.070 M

4x2 ₱ 1.690 M

Ford Alabang, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang - Zapote Rd., Muntinlupa City; Trunk Lines: 842-3681 / 842-4628; Fax No.: 807-4430
Ford Cabanatuan, Maharlika Highway, Sumacab-Este, Cabanatuan City; Tel No.: (044) 464-0111 ; Fax No.: (044) 600-4200
Ford Balintawak, EDSA cor. Seminary Road, Balintawak, Quezon City; Trunk Line: 927-9648; Fax No.: 927-5981
Ford Pampanga, San Fernando - Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga; Trunk Line: (045) 961-2888; Fax Nos.: (045) 963-5205 / 961-2277
Ford EDSA, 29 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila; Trunk Lines: 726-7181 to 85; Fax No.: 723-6311
Ford Cebu, Magallanes cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City 6000; Trunk Line: (032) 253-0453; Fax No.: (032) 253-0429
Ford Libis, 186 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Libis, Quezon City; Trunk Line: 637-2044; Fax No.: 637-6008
Ford Davao, Km. 6, Lanang, Davao City; Tel. No.: (082) 234-1111; Fax No.: (082) 234-2222
Ford Makati, 2287 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City 1231; Trunk Line: 818-5555; Fax No.: 815-0513

PBCom sees 10% profit growth, plans to expand branch network

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

BINONDO-BASED Philippine Bank of Communications is poised to expand its core banking business and invest in technology following an additional P2.6-billion capital build-up from stockholders.

In an interview yesterday, PBCom president Isidro Alcantara also reported that the bank, whose profits last year surged 44.8 percent to P155 million from P107 million in 1999, would benefit from the new retail business brought by its acquisition of 100 percent of Consumer Savings Bank, previously the thrift bank unit of food and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp.

A much improved economic environment is also projected to translate to additional interest income for the bank this year. For the whole year, Alcantara said the bank would likely post a 10-percent increase in net income and revenues on the back of 5- to 10-percent growth in lending.

For the first quarter of the year, the bank has already recorded a profit of P35 million, up from P9 million in the same period last year.

For the year 2000, Alcantara said the bank was able to post higher profits despite flat revenues due to shift in lower cost of funds. This strategy to cut down cost of funds, he said, would continue this year.

However, Alcantara said the strategy over the next two years would be to strengthen the core business through branch expansion as well as to improve internal efficiency by investing in technology.

He said the bank would not be aggressive in scouting for another bank acquisition after Consumer Savings.. Instead, he said it would focus on expanding its branch network by buying the branch licenses of merging banks which would be unloading redundant branches.

"We plan to bring up our branches to 100 in the next two years from 64. Although we are among the top 20 banks in terms of capital and the second biggest among (regular) commercial banks, we have a lot of catching up to do in terms of branch expansion," Alcantara said.

He also said the bank was committed to spend around P300 million in the next two years to improve technology. He also pledged to expand its share in its niche market of wholesale lending to Filipino-Chinese businesses.

For the year 2000, Alcantara also said the bank has set aside another P1.3 billion in loan-loss provisions to bring up its total loan-loss cover to 64.8 percent, or above the industry average of less than 50 percent.

The bank's non-performing loans as of end-2000 stood at 17 percent, up from 15 percent the previous year. Alcantara said the merger with Consumer Savings Bank was not likely to result in a higher NPL ratio because of the latter's low level of bad loans, which was less than 5 percent of its total loan portfolio.

PBCom recently raised its paid-up capital to P7.3 billion following a P2.6-billion equity infusion from its shareholders, the families Luy of International Copra Export Corp., Ralph Nubla and Chung of La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Factory.

Alcantara said the bank was not yet considering to take in a strategic partner as the existing shareholders have vowed to cover any needed increase in capital on their own.

PLDT expects more landline text subscribers

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has increased its subscription target for its landline texting service as more than 100,000 subscribers have signed up for the service after only two months since launching.

From only 5 percent of PLDT's total landline subscribers, the company now expects 10 percent of its subscriber base to avail themselves of the landline texting service called TXT 135 before the end of the year.

TXT 135, which was launched in February, allows PLDT landline subscribers to send a one-way text message to any GSM (global system for mobile communications) cellular phone subscriber of Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp.

PLDT has more than two million landline subscribers at present.

"We expect daily text messages to significantly increase when two-way texting service will be made available to and from PLDT landlines, Smart and Piltel mobile phones in May or June," said PLDT vice president for national retail marketing Joaquin L. San Agustin.

There is already an average of 750,000 landline text messages a day being processed by the PLDT network. TXT 135 is also available through PLDT's Teletipid prepaid landline service and PLDT payphones.

PLDT currently charges P2 for every message successfully sent.

"We also plan to introduce the same international text service and information-on-demand services similar to what you have on cellular phones today. It's the same international texting functionality that Smart has which would not entail additional cost to us since we will be using the same circuit," San Agustin said.

However, the company did not give any revenue projections for the service.

To send a text message, a PLDT subscriber has to call 171 or visit any PLDT business office for free activation. Upon activation the subscriber must dial 135 on his landline phone plus the 11-digit Smart GSM or Piltel Talk 'N Text number and follow the voice prompts.

CURRENCIES

April 26, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.115449	1.000000	50.5460
Japan	Yen	0.009121	0.008177	0.4133
United Kingdom	Pound	1.606916	1.440600	72.8166
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143015	0.128213	6.4807
Switzerland	Franc	0.652805	0.585240	29.5815
Canada	Dollar	0.720621	0.646037	32.6546
Singapore	Dollar	0.613558	0.550055	27.8031
Australia	Dollar	0.562965	0.504698	25.5105
Bahrain	Dinar	2.958908	2.652661	134.0814
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.297421	0.266638	13.4775
Brunei	Dollar	0.613660	0.550146	27.8077
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000093	0.000083	0.0042
Thailand	Baht	0.024477	0.021944	1.1092
UAE	Dirham	0.303730	0.272294	13.7634
Korea	Won	0.000853	0.000765	0.0387
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.896500	45.3145
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.458373	23.1689
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136671	6.9082
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.406814	20.5628
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065151	3.2931
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022224	1.1233
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000463	0.0234
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.150780	7.6213
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004472	0.2260
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005388	0.2723
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022224	1.1233
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.13832	57.5375

Shares fall 1.7%

(From page B1)

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 24.68 points to 1,437.50.

Volume turnover surged to 1.26 billion shares but value fell to P302 million compared to 264 million shares worth P431 million traded on Wednesday.

Aside from the instability factor, "the peso continues to fall against the dollar. These factors continued to affect trading," said Fitzgerald Aclan of KGI Securities.

"What investors want now is no violence and that due process is observed," he added.

The peso dived to an intra-day low of 50.82 to the dollar yesterday from its Wednesday close of 50.55. *AFP*

DIVIDEND NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Sun Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. has declared a dividend of $0.12 per share, in Canadian currency, on the outstanding common shares of the Corporation payable on June 30, 2001 to shareholders of record as at the close of business on May 28, 2001.

By order of the Board of Directors
James E. Henkel
Vice President & Corporate Secretary

April 25, 2001
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Sun Life Financial

Taiwan's . . .

(From page B1)

whose flights have been cancelled due to the air dispute. It suffered between $200 million and $300 million in foregone revenues due to the air dispute.

Acer slashed its production lines (desktops are down from eight to four lines and mobile units down from six to four lines) and cut back on personnel (desktop employees have been cut by a third to 1,172 and mobile staff limited to 1,200 instead of the projected 2,000). At the height of the air row, Acer threatened to shelve its planned expansion in Subic, cut its 3,000 workforce by half, and shift the increased production requirements to other plants overseas.

After a total of eight months of no air links between Manila and Taipei, the dispute was finally resolved after both parties agreed to a compromise on the number of seats. With its expansion into desktop production, Acer has apparently regained its confidence in the country as a production hub.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, April 26, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	77	78	75	75	477,100
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	240
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43	43.5	43	43	7,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	214	215	212	213	76,460
Philippine National Bank	44	44	43.5	43.5	43,700
Phil. Savings Bank	29	30	29	30	1,400
Security Bank Corp.	19.75	20.5	19.75	20.5	18,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	250	250	250	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1265	1270	1265	1270	2,540
PCI Leasing & Fin., Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	20,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	965	970	965	970	3,320
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	39	39	37.5	37.5	15,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.45	0.45	0.42	0.42	1,500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	120,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	12,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	690	700	690	690	24,830
Ivantage Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.93	250,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.042	0.043	118,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42.5	42.5	41.5	42	30,900
Manila Electric Co. B	56	56	54	54.5	369,900
Petron Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.84	1.84	6,019,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	3,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.3	911,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1	150,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14.25	14	14	897,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	30	30	30	30	89,200
Pancake House Inc.	1.6	1.64	1.6	1.64	70,000
RFM Corp.	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.97	2,540,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	46.5	45.5	45.5	14,200
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	51.5	50	50	56,700
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	8,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.6	314,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.22	1.3	1.22	1.3	1,740,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.5	12	12.25	2,500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	30,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	190,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	1,000,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	180,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	12.75	9.4	12.75	1,200
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.58	1.6	1.48	1.5	16,167,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	320,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	80,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	2,100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	380,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	200,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.02	285,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.5	23.5	22.5	22.5	94,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Ionics Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	2,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.88	1.88	374,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings B	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.76	0.77	2,140,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.47	1,840,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	250,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	540,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.42	0.48	0.42	0.48	40,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.32	0.26	0.3	3,290,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	1,000
Music Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.46	2.46	69,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	250,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	68,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	660,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	330,000
Manila Jockey Club	20	20.5	20	20.5	4,500
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.2	760,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	39	39	37.5	37.5	434,800
Equitable Pci Bank-War	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	10,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	130,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	1,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.8	3,596,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	240,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	2,690,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.16	2.18	2.12	2.12	7,852,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	1,000,000
SM Development Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.2	7	7	7,810,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev.Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	7,000,000
Benguet Corp. B	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	350,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	160,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	38,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	6,500,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	650,660	62,173,605.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,166,248,730	144,389,180.00
PRO	23,468,000	94,538,800.00
Mining	22,520,000	209,300.00
OIL	47,510,000	868,600.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,260,397,390	302,179,485.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	600.76	DOWN 11.33
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,950.32	DOWN 31.98
PRO	580.93	DOWN 10.45
Mining	1,150.98	UP 1.90
OIL	1.51	UP 0.02
All Shares Index	740.53	DOWN 2.81
Composite	1,437.50	DOWN 24.68

NO. OF ADVANCES: 26; NO. OF DECLINES: 46; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 26; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 98; NO. OF TRADES: 2,179

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DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **iPeople Inc.** were Alfonso Yuchengco III, Reynaldo Evidente, Delfin Lazaro, Rizalino Navarro, Cesar Buenaventura, Yvonne Yuchengco, Orlando Vea, Ramon Jocson and Marco Santos.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **SM Development Corp.** were Henry Sy Sr., Rogelio Cabunag, Henry Sy Jr., Hans Sy, Andres Gatmaitan, Octavio Espiritu and Ricardo Romulo. Also, the company declared a P0.05 per share cash dividend in favor of stockholders as of May 25 and shall be payable on or before June 25.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University declared a P0.10 per share cash dividend in favor of stockholders as of May 10 and shall be payable on May 31.

* * *

SUN Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. declared a C$0.12 per share cash dividend in favor of stockholders as of May 28 and shall be payable on June 30.

* * *

ALLIED Banking Corp. announced the resignation of Doming Chua as member of the bank's board. Elected to replace him was Florencio Santos.

* * *

ELECTED to the board of **Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.** were George Ty, Placido Mapa Jr., Deogracias Vistan, Antonio Abacan Jr., Jesus Estanislao, Cielito Habito, Renato Valencia, Gabriel Chua, James Go, Benjamin Chua Jr. and Elvira Ong Chan.

* * *

SECURITY Bank Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 29, 3 p.m. at the 21/F Security Bank Center Auditorium in Makati City. Stockholders as of May 9 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILODRILL Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from May 23 to June 27. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

SEC to press BOI on listing of registered firms

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission will ask the Department of Trade and Industry to require all companies registered with the Board of Investments to make a public offering of their shares.

In an interview with reporters, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said that enforcing the laws that require BOI-registered companies, universal banks and oil companies to offer 10 percent of their shares to the public would be a big boost to the local stock market.

"The SEC supports the suggestion of the PSE (Philippine Stock Exchange) that the BOI should insist that all companies registered with them and availing of incentives should make a public offering of their shares," she said.

"Most of these are known companies worldwide so it would attract many foreign investors," Bautista pointed out.

The SEC chair said she would also ask the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to require universal banks to go public by the third or fourth quarter of this year.

Under the law, banks must list at least 10 percent of their shares within three years of getting universal bank licenses, but the BSP has allowed banks to defer the listing until the market improves.

For example, Banco de Oro Universal Bank of retail magnate Henry Sy was supposed to have listed its shares at the PSE two years ago.

Bautista also disclosed that the SEC would follow up on the requirement that the Philippine subsidiaries of Caltex and Shell undertake an initial public offering.

The two oil companies have asked the Department of Justice to grant them time to comply with the oil deregulation law mandating that the companies list by March this year. The DOJ has granted the two an indefinite extension.

Bautista explained that under the law creating the BOI, companies registered should also offer at least 10 percent of their shares to the public.

However, the BOI has exempted companies from the law as long as at least 20 employees own shares of the company.

Pummeled by the country's political problems and stock fraud scandals, the local stock market has achieved the distinction as the worst performing in Asia and second worst in the world last year.

Brokers and regulators believed the listing of good companies would generate interest and activity in the stock exchange.

Gov't seen giving incentives to Internet cafés, schools

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is batting for the inclusion of Internet cafés and information technology education centers in the annual listing of priority investment areas.

The DTI said it was currently in consultation with the private sector on the terms for the inclusion of the community access centers (such as Internet kiosks and cafés) in the 2001 investment priorities plan (IPP).

The move is expected to entice more businessmen to put their money in the IT sector, which the government is betting on as the country's biggest dollar earner in the future. With its inclusion in the 2001 IPP, investors in Internet cafés and IT schools can avail themselves of incentives such as six- to eight-year income tax breaks.

Strong interest in these sectors is evident with the recent buy-in moves of e-PLDT, the electronic commerce vehicle of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., into various Internet ventures.

e-PLDT has recently acquired Netopia, one of the country's biggest chains of Internet cafés, which it plans to expand through franchising. e-PLDT also has interest in Mind Stream Inc., which is the local licensee of NIIT, the world's leading IT school and a major software developer.

The DTI first included the IT sector in the IPP last year and businessmen have responded by pumping in nearly P10 billion in new investments over the past six months. Last year, the BOI granted fiscal perks to Internet service providers (ISPs), including pioneer incentives for companies either investing at least P100 million or using pioneering technology.

The DTI and the National Economic and Development Authority are currently reviewing the list of the 2001 IPP with an eye on cutting down the number of investment areas in view of the widening budget deficit.

One of the early casualties is the entertainment industry, which was set for inclusion in this year's IPP after nearly three years of lobbying by artists and directors with the backing of former President Estrada, a former movie actor.

PNB's bad loan ratio stood at 40% in March

PHILIPPINE National Bank said yesterday its non-performing loans (NPLs) stood at 40 percent of total loan portfolio as of March 23.

The bank estimated its NPLs at 38 percent as of November last year.

In its statement of condition published in a newspaper, PNB said its total NPLs amounted to P40.29 billion.

It also said specific provisions for loan losses amounted to P14.74 billion and general provision for loan losses were P818 million.

Meantime, medium-sized Philippine Bank of Communications said yesterday it recorded a net income of around P35 million in the first quarter of 2001 against around P9 million in the same year-ago period.

Bank president Isidro Alcantara told reporters the jump in bank profits was due to an increase in lending portfolio "because of expectations of a better environment."

Alcantara said the bank expected lending growth of about 5 to 10 percent this year and an increase of around 10 percent in its annual net income in 2001.

He added the bank had increased its provisions for loan losses to reach 64.8 percent of total loans last year after putting up additional loan-loss provisions of P1.3 billion in 2000.

PBCom was untraded from its Jan. 22 close of P150. *Reuters*

Lopez firm plans coal-fed plants

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOPEZ-CONTROLLED First Generation Holdings Corp. is planning to put up a coal-fired power plant once the controversial power bill is passed.

First Generation president Peter Garrucho said they were beginning to look into building a 100-megawatt generator, which is estimated to cost $100 million.

Garrucho said the firm initially planned to buy a coal-fired generator, but with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, it would be better to build new ones.

The official declined to say where they wanted to locate the power plant, saying it was too early to say.

He said the company was currently doing a feasibility study about the plant, adding they have yet to decide whether it would run on locally produced lignite or on imported thermal coal.

Garrucho also said that First Generation was awaiting developments regarding the passage of the power bill since they were interested in buying one of the National Power Corp.'s generation companies.

The proposed law lays the ground for the privatization of the debt-ridden state firm, which reported that its total financial liabilities have reached P900 billion at end-2000.

Garrucho said they were looking at a Luzon-based Napocor generating company in consideration of the developing natural gas industry in Batangas.

In a related matter, the Department of Energy yesterday warned of massive blackouts by 2005 if the power bill would not be passed into law.

The department said in a statement a new power crisis would likely occur since efforts to build new generating capacities were not catching up with projected demands.

According to a DOE report, 9,844 mw of electricity would be needed over the next 10 years.

However, additional capacities that have firm commitments so far only add up to 4,816 mw or 49 percent of the projected demand.

Tip #7. Keep Track of Action Items During a Slide Show

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AGREEMENTS BY MAY 15

PDIC sets deadline to finalize Urban rehab

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. has given the Export and Industry Bank until May 15 to conclude rehabilitation talks with the shareholders and depositors of shuttered lender Urban Bank Inc.

In a news statement, PDIC president Norberto Nazareno said ExportBank and its partner, the National Association of Urban Depositors and Creditors, would have to sign by May 15 an agreement that would commit the Social Security System into infusing some P600 million in fresh capital into Urban Bank.

The SSS, a major shareholder of Urban Bank, has already expressed support for ExportBank's and Naud's rehabilitation plan, despite opposition in the Senate.

Senate Minority Leader Rene Cayetano said earlier the plan to use P600 million of the SSS' funds to re-open Urban Bank would only aggravate the SSS' financial situation.

Nazareno said ExportBank and Naud would also have to work out a memorandum of understanding with Urban Bank's three major depositors—San Miguel Corp., Petron Corp. and Manila Electric Co.—on a longer pay-out terms, and with the bank's shareholders regarding their equity claims.

ExportBank and Naud are hoping to re-open Urban Bank by July 1.

Under a rehabilitation that ExportBank and Naud submitted to PDIC, Urban Bank and its investment house, Urbancorp Investment Inc., would be merged and capitalized at P3.5 billion as a commercial bank. It would then be merged with ExportBank within the year.

"They somehow are improving on the Bank of Commerce proposal inasmuch as they are looking at converting more deposits into equity," Nazareno told the INQUIRER.

Bank of Commerce, who aborted talks to bail out Urban Bank, proposed to convert a quarter of the deposits of San Miguel, Petron and Meralco into equity.

ExportBank and Naud tendered the same proposal, but they also offered to convert 10 percent of the money owned by Urban Bank's other depositors and creditors into equity.

Nazareno said Naud had already started a road show to generate commitments from Urban Bank's depositors and creditors to convert 10 percent of their deposits into equity and restructure the balance over three years.

Urban Bank's three major depositors have also reacted positively to ExportBank's rehabilitation plan, according to Nazareno.

Former Urban Bank president Teodoro Borlongan Jr., meanwhile, said he had no problem with ExportBank's and Naud's rehabilitation proposal.

"Whatever it takes to re-open the bank," he told the INQUIRER.

He added that whatever cases were filed in court should not affect the re-opening of Urban Bank.

Borlongan also said he did not see any role for him in the event Urban Bank re-opens.

"I don't want to be a part of the bank anymore," he said.

Memo to Secretary Sto. Tomas: On labor pains

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THIS coming first of May, the whole nation will pause once again to celebrate Labor Day in honor of our working class and in celebrating their vital role in our struggle for national liberation from poverty, social injustice and oppression by the various forces in human society. In occasions like these, government officials, foreign dignitaries, pillars of business and industry and labor leaders, not to mention traditional politicians, will wax eloquence on the dignity of labor and the importance of workers in our common quest for economic progress. And yet, after all these years, the workingman remains poor, exploited and neglected.

The question is why? Why are our workers still suffering from unabated poverty? Why do unemployment and underemployment continue to be the No. 1 exploiter of labor? Why are the workers still lacking in skills and competence? Why is the stress of employment policy sharply biased in favor of overseas jobs? Why is the labor sector still largely unorganized? Why are the organized sectors fragmented? Why is there rampant violation of labor standards? Why are labor cases still delayed? Why is labor justice too slow, expensive and inexpeditious? Why is there corruption in offices in charge of labor justice?

Unabated poverty

If the working class is indeed the pillar of our economy, why are our workers exceedingly poor while the capitalists, the business leaders, the management sectors have grown ostentatiously rich? If labor is truly the social partner of business, why is there a wide gap between the majority who are wallowing in poverty and the minority who are wallowing in shameless decadence.

The Metro Manila workers, with a minimum daily wage of P250 are being deducted against their will with SSS, Philhealth, Pag-Ibig, and other contributions, thus diminishing their take home pay aside from the value of money having been substantially eroded by such unseen enemies like inflation and rising cost of living. How then can a family of six survive with foods at skyrocketing prices, house rentals uncontrolled and the costs of basic education and health care that are unreachable? Where are the safety nets to protect the poor from the onslaught of trade liberalization and other emerging socio-economic phenomena in a society that has remained parochial vis-à-vis an era of globalization?

A culture of corruption

Given the sufferings of our working masses, the traditional politicians continue to exploit their naivete and vulnerabilities by purchasing their seats in Congress and local governments with a few peso of graft money used in buying votes this coming election. Corruption, of course, is not the monopoly of politicians as many bureaucrats in government, not to mention judges, prosecutors and policemen, or even the petty receiving clerks, inspectors and sheriffs sell their decisions and cooperations to workers who find themselves as complainants or respondents in labor, civil or criminal litigations.

The poor workers, who cannot even afford basic needs, have to pay large amounts to obtain justice in the offices created precisely to protect them. Not only that, the workers have to wait for years before getting a judgment that their dismissals were illegal or their money claims were with merit. At times, workers are harassed, persecuted and charged criminally by heartless employers in their effort to create a bargaining leverage. And fiscals and judges sometimes abet them. The dismissal of an appellate justice and the suspension of an RTC judge are just tips in the iceberg.

Multiple oppressors

The tyrannical employers are not the sole tormentors of labor. Workers are also being exploited by unscrupulous labor leaders who sell them for 30 pieces of silver like Judas. Leaders of labor who become dealers of labor, parading in sheep's clothing but are really wolves who devour the workers. Then, there are scalawags among labor lawyers who extract from workers their "pounds of flesh" in the forms of exorbitant attorney's fees, or even violate their lawyers' oath of betraying the confidence of their clients and working in behalf of the employers.

Another oppressor of labor are the corrupt judges, prosecutors, labor arbiters and commissioners who demand bribes openly and forthrightly as if the temple of justice and the tribunals of labor are dens of thieves and bribe takers. The clerks who won't certify without grease money, the bailiff who won't serve subpoenas without pocket money, the sheriff who won't execute without a cut in the judgment money, it is all about money and none about justice.

Workers shall remain poor

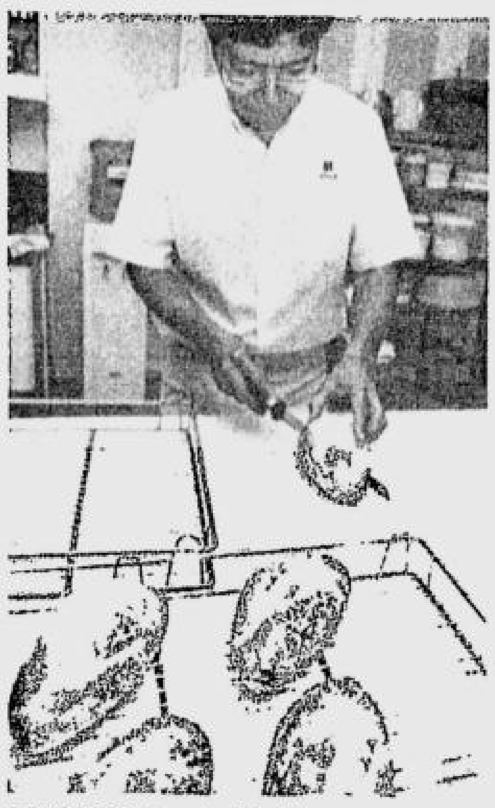
As long as the system is not changed, this culture of corruption, exploitation, neglect and oppression shall be perpetuated. The Labor Day celebrations shall be full of sloganeering and propaganda aimed at projecting a positive image of a hapless regime. The workers will be lionized, praised to high heavens, called the modern heroes like the OFWs. But the same lips that praise them shall likewise order their exploitation.

The workers will remain in the squatter areas. They will eat junk foods and live atop the mountains of garbage and pollutions. When they get sick, the SSS will not help them because their employers did not remit the premiums. When they are injured maimed or killed, the government has not enough resources to take care of them especially if they are casuals, contractuals or intermittent workers.

The businessmen will grow richer. The politicians will become more powerful. The bureaucrat will become even more corrupt. The labor force and the masses constitute a social volcano that is about to erupt. And so, Secretary Sto. Tomas, what then is the relevance of Labor Day to our millions of workers? *(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)*

Yeast firm shows new way of making bread

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO



A MASTER at work at Sonlie.

SUCCESS STORY

EVER since anyone can remember, bread was made the same way. A *panadero* works inside a dark bakery and employs his formula for hot *pan de sal*. Ingredients were not measured and the bakers would just use their bare hands, with a liberal amount of sweat for added taste.

Tecson Alonzo, whose family was engaged in plastics manufacturing, saw the opportunity to introduce a better way of baking bread to the burgeoning bakery business if only to ensure the health of the millions who eat *pan de sal* everyday.

He and his wife Julie put up Sonlie International Inc. in 1981, which brought to the market instant yeast. Alonzo, however, was the first to admit that it was far from easy to convince bakers to try a new product since they have been used to using the old type of yeast for decades, even if it was easier to use and is of much better quality.

"It took us a year before I was able to sell the 200 cartons of instant yeast we imported from French firm SI Lesaffre. I personally talked to bakery owners and urged them to try the product because of its high quality. But it was difficult to convince people to try another product because they have been so used to (what they currently have) and are afraid to try or switch to another type," Alonzo explained.

Alonzo, however, was persistent and he was soon rewarded for his efforts. He got the support of the Bakers Association of the Philippines, and it helped him get in touch with its member bakers and personally asked them to try using the instant yeast.

He and the group of technicians from SI Lesaffre also took the opportunity to convince these bakers to improve the entire process of baking bread.

"The BAP recommended me to many bakers and demand started coming. When these bakers were able to use the product and found out for themselves that the yeast was indeed effective, the demand escalated," he said.

Now on its 20th year, Sonlie is considered the leading distributor of instant yeast, providing the yeast requirements of some of the country's top producers of baked products such as Goldilocks, Delifrance and the Fortune/Tropical group of companies.

The husband-and-wife tandem did not stop at just distributing instant yeast. They considered it their social responsibility to help the owners and bakers upgrade their bakeries. Sonlie helped show them that there were equipment that could eliminate all the manual labor put in by the *panaderos* such as the kneading of the flour.

"I helped educate owners to try the equipment, which was being used in Europe in making breads. I was definitely not into selling the equipment, I just wanted the owners to know that there is available technology that can eliminate manual work and at the same time produce hygienic products," he said.

As part of his education to owners, he put up a baking center where owners and their workers can attend to get training in management. The lessons cover costings, sanitation and modern techniques in breadmaking. Sonlie even provides recipes that bakers can try to expand their product line.

The baking center also taught bakers how to use different equipment in making the bread.

"We have eventually upgraded the baking industry because most people now are using technological equipment and the people now are more skilled in their work. As a matter of fact, I am proud to say that I played a part in giving people skills in baking that they used as a means to earn money," Alonzo said.

Sonlie has also laid out plans to expand its own product line. From instant yeast, it expanded into selling coco power which are also used by bakeries and specialty shops. It also distributes bread improver, which is an ingredient used to enhance the quality of the bread.

The bread improver ensures that the bread comes out according to shape and form. It also helps prolong the shelf life of the bread. Without it, the bread may end up being too soft or deformed.

Sonlie also distributes cake-making ingredients such as flavoring and decorative ingredients. It eventually plans to sell premixed flour which bakers can just put into the oven after adding water.

"We are also introducing another type of yeast—frozen instant yeast—that can last up to six months to help bakery owners save on cost," he said.

Lehman offers to arrange 'eurobond II'

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

LEHMAN Brothers is offering to refinance PNOC Energy Development Corp.'s $150-million "eurobond II" set to mature by the end of the year.

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The lead arranger for eurobond II was Morgan Stanley.

Eurobond II was issued early in 1996 and was used to finance the 40-megawatt Mindanao 2 geothermal plant in Mt. Apo.

Also, proceeds of the bond issue was used to bridge-finance geothermal exploration efforts in Mt. Labo, Camarines Sur, and in Negros.

SM slows down development of 'Mall of Asia' land project

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

RETAIL giant SM Prime Holdings Inc. has decided to slow down the development of its ambitious 530,000-sq.m. Mall of Asia project to free up cash reserves for mall developments outside Metro Manila.

During the company's annual stockholders meeting yesterday, SM Investments Corp. EVP and CFO Jose Sio disclosed that the master plan for the Mall of Asia was revised to trim the construction cost of the project by P5 billion, from P7.5 billion to P2.5 billion.

SM Prime EVP Hans Sy said the cash savings would be used to put up malls outside Metro Manila, which was inspired by the success of the Pampanga SM Mall.

The SM board, thus, decided to shelve the proposed share-swap deal that would have transferred ownership of the vast property along Roxas Boulevard from SM Investments to SM Prime and required an increase in the company's authorized capital stock from P10 billion to P15 billion.

Although SM Prime still planned to offer a total of 530,000 leasable space in its Mall of Asia over the long term, Sio said the amended master plan would reduce SM Prime's cash requirements by 2003.

Under the revised plan, SM Prime will develop the property in phases, offering an initial 165,000 sq.m. of leasable space when the mall starts operation on 2003, and the mode changed from high rise to low rise development.

"We previously planned a high-rise development, but now it will be more of the sprawling development type, which will lower the cost of construction of the mall but require bigger land area," Sio said.

Sio added that SM Prime would lease the land on a long-term basis from SM Investments instead of acquiring it through the share-swap deal approved last year.

"We are canceling the increase in authorized capital," he said.

SM Prime, owned by the family of tycoon Henry Sy, owns and operates 10 malls all over the country with a total land area of 1.6 million sq.m.

The company reported a 10-percent increase net income last year to P3.14 billion on the back of a 16-percent improvement in rental revenues and an 8-percent growth of same-store sales. The rest of rental growth came from the opening of new malls in Manila and Pampanga.

Sio estimated that the company's net income for the first quarter continued to grow by 10 percent to 12 percent due to a 20-percent growth in sales. SM Prime hoped to end the year with a net income growth of at least 10 percent.

Manila Southwoods made it in 1998.

Manila Southwoods - Golf Club of the Year 1998

INQUIRER Golf · OmniDSL

AGREEMENTS BY MAY 15

PDIC sets deadline to finalize Urban rehab

By Raul C. Dancel

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. has given the Export and Industry Bank until May 15 to conclude rehabilitation talks with the shareholders and depositors of shuttered lender Urban Bank Inc.

In a news statement, PDIC president Norberto Nazareno said ExportBank and its partner, the National Association of Urban Depositors and Creditors, would have to sign by May 15 an agreement that would commit the Social Security System into infusing some P600 million in fresh capital into Urban Bank.

The SSS, a major shareholder of Urban Bank, has already expressed support for ExportBank's and Naud's rehabilitation plan, despite opposition in the Senate.

Senate Minority Leader Rene Cayetano said earlier the plan to use P600 million of the SSS' funds to re-open Urban Bank would only aggravate the SSS' financial situation.

Nazareno said ExportBank and Naud would also have to work out a memorandum of understanding with Urban Bank's three major depositors—San Miguel Corp., Petron Corp. and Manila Electric Co.—on a longer pay-out terms, and with the bank's shareholders regarding their equity claims.

ExportBank and Naud are hoping to re-open Urban Bank by July 1.

Under a rehabilitation that ExportBank and Naud submitted to PDIC, Urban Bank and its investment house, Urbancorp Investment Inc., would be merged and capitalized at P3.5 billion as a commercial bank. It would then be merged with ExportBank within the year.

"They somehow are improving on the Bank of Commerce proposal inasmuch as they are looking at converting more deposits into equity," Nazareno told the Inquirer.

Bank of Commerce, who aborted talks to bail out Urban Bank, proposed to convert a quarter of the deposits of San Miguel, Petron and Meralco into equity.

ExportBank and Naud tendered the same proposal, but they also offered to convert 10 percent of the money owned by Urban Bank's other depositors and creditors into equity.

Nazareno said Naud had already started a road show to generate commitments from Urban Bank's depositors and creditors to convert 10 percent of their deposits into equity and restructure the balance over three years.

Urban Bank's three major depositors have also reacted positively to ExportBank's rehabilitation plan, according to Nazareno.

Former Urban Bank president Teodoro Borlongan Jr., meanwhile, said he had no problem with ExportBank's and Naud's rehabilitation proposal.

"Whatever it takes to re-open the bank," he told the Inquirer.

He added that whatever cases were filed in court should not affect the re-opening of Urban Bank.

Borlongan also said he did not see any role for him in the event Urban Bank re-opens.

"I don't want to be a part of the bank anymore," he said.

Memo to Secretary Sto. Tomas: On labor pains

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THIS coming first of May, the whole nation will pause once again to celebrate Labor Day in honor of our working class and in celebrating their vital role in our struggle for national liberation from poverty, social injustice and oppression by the various forces in human society. In occasions like these, government officials, foreign dignitaries, pillars of business and industry and labor leaders, not to mention traditional politicians, will wax eloquence on the dignity of labor and the importance of workers in our common quest for economic progress. And yet, after all these years, the workingman remains poor, exploited and neglected.

The question is why? Why are our workers still suffering from unabated poverty? Why do unemployment and underemployment continue to be the No. 1 exploiter of labor? Why are the workers still lacking in skills and competence? Why is the stress of employment policy sharply biased in favor of overseas jobs? Why is the labor sector still largely unorganized? Why are the organized sectors fragmented? Why is there rampant violation of labor standards? Why are labor cases still delayed? Why is labor justice too slow, expensive and inexpeditious? Why is there corruption in offices in charge of labor justice?

Unabated poverty

If the working class is indeed the pillar of our economy, why are our workers exceedingly poor while the capitalists, the business leaders, the management sectors have grown ostentatiously rich? If labor is truly the social partner of business, why is there a wide gap between the majority who are wallowing in poverty and the minority who are wallowing in shameless decadence.

The Metro Manila workers, with a minimum daily wage of P250 are being deducted against their will with SSS, Philhealth, Pag-Ibig, and other contributions, thus diminishing their take home pay aside from the value of money having been substantially eroded by such unseen enemies like inflation and rising cost of living. How then can a family of six survive with foods at skyrocketing prices, house rentals uncontrolled and the costs of basic education and health care that are unreachable? Where are the safety nets to protect the poor from the onslaught of trade liberalization and other emerging socio-economic phenomena in a society that has remained parochial vis-à-vis an era of globalization?

A culture of corruption

Given the sufferings of our working masses, the traditional politicians continue to exploit their naivete and vulnerabilities by purchasing their seats in Congress and local governments with a few peso of graft money used in buying votes this coming election. Corruption, of course, is not the monopoly of politicians as many bureaucrats in government, not to mention judges, prosecutors and policemen, or even the petty receiving clerks, inspectors and sheriffs sell their decisions and cooperations to workers who find themselves as complainants or respondents in labor, civil or criminal litigations.

The poor workers, who cannot even afford basic needs, have to pay large amounts to obtain justice in the offices created precisely to protect them. Not only that, the workers have to wait for years before getting a judgment that their dismissals were illegal or their money claims were with merit. At times, workers are harassed, persecuted and charged criminally by heartless employers in their effort to create a bargaining leverage. And fiscals and judges sometimes abet them. The dismissal of an appellate justice and the suspension of an RTC judge are just tips in the iceberg.

Multiple oppressors

The tyrannical employers are not the sole tormentors of labor. Workers are also being exploited by unscrupulous labor leaders who sell them for 30 pieces of silver like Judas. Leaders of labor who become dealers of labor, parading in sheep's clothing but are really wolves who devour the workers. Then, there are scalawags among labor lawyers who extract from workers their "pounds of flesh" in the forms of exorbitant attorney's fees, or even violate their lawyers' oath of betraying the confidence of their clients and working in behalf of the employers.

Another oppressor of labor are the corrupt judges, prosecutors, labor arbiters and commissioners who demand bribes openly and forthrightly as if the temple of justice and the tribunals of labor are dens of thieves and bribe takers. The clerks who won't certify without grease money, the bailiff who won't serve subpoenas without pocket money, the sheriff who won't execute without a cut in the judgment money, it is all about money and none about justice.

Workers shall remain poor

As long as the system is not changed, this culture of corruption, exploitation, neglect and oppression shall be perpetuated. The Labor Day celebrations shall be full of sloganeering and propaganda aimed at projecting a positive image of a hapless regime. The workers will be lionized, praised to high heavens, called the modern heroes like the OFWs. But the same lips that praise them shall likewise order their exploitation.

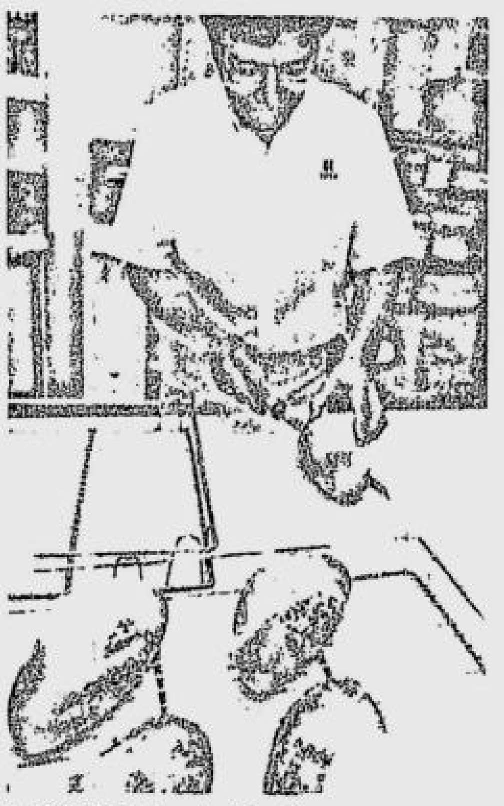
The workers will remain in the squatter areas. They will eat junk foods and live atop the mountains of garbage and pollutions. When they get sick, the SSS will not help them because their employers did not remit the premiums. When they are injured maimed or killed, the government has not enough resources to take care of them especially if they are casuals, contractuals or intermittent workers.

The businessmen will grow richer. The politicians will become more powerful. The bureaucrat will become even more corrupt. The labor force and the masses constitute a social volcano that is about to erupt. And so, Secretary Sto. Tomas, what then is the relevance of Labor Day to our millions of workers? *(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)*

Yeast firm shows new way of making bread

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SUCCESS STORY



A MASTER at work at Sonlie.

EVER since anyone can remember, bread was made the same way. A *panadero* works inside a dark bakery and employs his formula for hot *pan de sal*. Ingredients were not measured and the bakers would just use their bare hands, with a liberal amount of sweat for added taste.

Tecson Alonzo, whose family was engaged in plastics manufacturing, saw the opportunity to introduce a better way of baking bread to the burgeoning bakery business if only to ensure the health of the millions who eat *pan de sal* everyday.

He and his wife Julie put up Sonlie International Inc. in 1981, which brought to the market instant yeast. Alonzo, however, was the first to admit that it was far from easy to convince bakers to try a new product since they have been used to using the old type of yeast for decades, even if it was easier to use and is of much better quality.

"It took us a year before I was able to sell the 200 cartons of instant yeast we imported from French firm SI Lesaffre. I personally talked to bakery owners and urged them to try the product because of its high quality. But it was difficult to convince people to try another product because they have been so used to (what they currently have) and are afraid to try or switch to another type," Alonzo explained.

Alonzo, however, was persistent and he was soon rewarded for his efforts. He got the support of the Bakers Association of the Philippines, and it helped him get in touch with its member bakers and personally asked them to try using the instant yeast.

He and the group of technicians from SI Lesaffre also took the opportunity to convince these bakers to improve the entire process of baking bread.

"The BAP recommended me to many bakers and demand started coming. When these bakers were able to use the product and found out for themselves that the yeast was indeed effective, the demand escalated," he said.

Now on its 20th year, Sonlie is considered the leading distributor of instant yeast, providing the yeast requirements of some of the country's top producers of baked products such as Goldilocks, Delifrance and the Fortune/Tropical group of companies.

The husband-and-wife tandem did not stop at just distributing instant yeast. They considered it their social responsibility to help the owners and bakers upgrade their bakeries. Sonlie helped show them that there were equipment that could eliminate all the manual labor put in by the *panaderos* such as the kneading of the flour.

"I helped educate owners to try the equipment, which was being used in Europe in making breads. I was definitely not into selling the equipment. I just wanted the owners to know that there is available technology that can eliminate manual work and at the same time produce hygienic products," he said.

As part of his education to owners, he put up a baking center where owners and their workers can attend to get training in management. The lessons cover costings, sanitation and modern techniques in breadmaking. Sonlie even provides recipes that bakers can try to expand their product line.

The baking center also taught bakers how to use different equipment in making the bread.

"We have eventually upgraded the baking industry because most people now are using technological equipment and the people now are more skilled in their work. As a matter of fact, I am proud to say that I played a part in giving people skills in baking that they used as a means to earn money," Alonzo said.

Sonlie has also laid out plans to expand its own product line. From instant yeast, it expanded into selling coco power which are also used by bakeries and specialty shops. It also distributes bread improver, which is an ingredient used to enhance the quality of the bread.

The bread improver ensures that the bread comes out according to shape and form. It also helps prolong the shelf life of the bread. Without it, the bread may end up being too soft or deformed.

Sonlie also distributes cake-making ingredients such as flavoring and decorative ingredients. It eventually plans to sell premixed flour which bakers can just put into the oven after adding water.

"We are also introducing another type of yeast—frozen instant yeast—that can last up to six months to help bakery owners save on cost," he said.

Lehman offers to arrange 'eurobond II'

By Ronnel W. Domingo

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By Doris C. Dumlao

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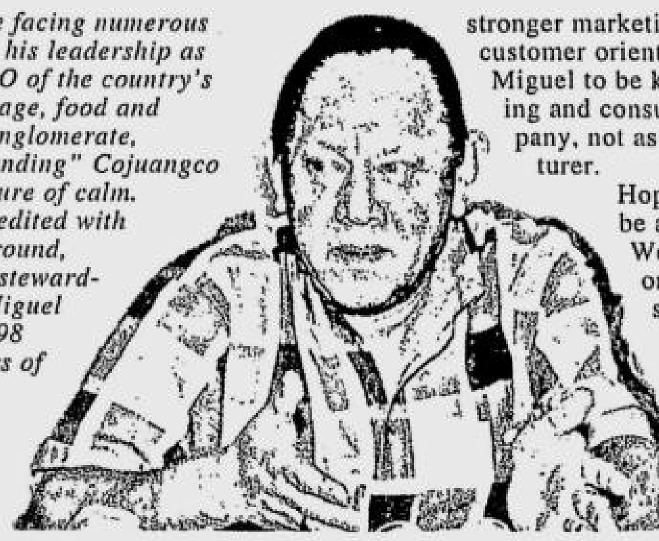
Manila Southwoods made it in 1998.

Manila Southwoods - Golf Club of the Year 1998

Inquirer Golf Monthly

We're going to stand on our results–Danding



FOR someone facing numerous challenges to his leadership as chair and CEO of the country's biggest beverage, food and packaging conglomerate, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. is the picture of calm.

Largely credited with SMC's turnaround, Cojuangco's stewardship of San Miguel since July 1998 reversed years of anemic earnings and growth. Despite the difficult market and economic conditions that continue to beset the Philippines, San Miguel has more than managed to hold its own, turning in solid double-digit growth for three consecutive years.

On the international front, the company has sustained the turnaround of its overseas operations, boosting its profitability and scoring significant successes. Last year, revenue, volume and operating income were uniformly up.

Closer to home, San Miguel is on the verge of finalizing deals to acquire two value-enhancing businesses—Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. and Pure Foods Corp.

Asked about plans to unseat him in San Miguel's upcoming stockholders meeting, Cojuangco simply says that no one is indispensable, "including myself."

The following is an exclusive to the Inquirer.

Q&A

QUESTION: What does San Miguel have to do to stay competitive? What to your mind are the competitive strengths of San Miguel?

ANSWER: Every so often, I think we have to reassess our competitiveness and redefine our competitive strengths. In the last decade it was our brands, our products, our distribution networks. Certainly, these are still our key strengths, but given the changes in the competitive climate, we need to raise the bar in everything we do.

For our brands to hold leading positions in their markets, we need to be more innovative, we need speed of delivery, we need to improve availability, service, value.

We need to look into developing technology that will help leverage these strengths.

We have to work harder at establishing our regional competitiveness as well. With the trade barriers coming down, we need to redouble our efforts and make sure we're as competitive as our rivals in Asia and other parts of the world.

We're lucky because we have a head start, but we shouldn't squander that advantage.

Q: What are your immediate priorities? What are your growth goals moving forward?

A: Well, keeping the momentum going would be the most obvious one. We've done a good job in pushing sales and growing revenue. Keeping on the growth track despite less than favorable economic conditions is a priority. I'd like us to be able to outdo ourselves each year.

We're close to finalizing two acquisitions, Pure Foods and CCBPI, that will allow us to accelerate growth by consolidating our businesses and expanding at the same time.

When I first returned to SMC, one of our first goals was to restore SMC to its rightful place of prominence in Philippine business. We're already a leader in the Philippines, so while I wouldn't say it's an immediate goal, I'd like us to look to becoming a force to reckon with in Asia.

Q: How do you see San Miguel five years hence?

A: Food, beverage and packaging will remain SMC's core businesses, but with a stronger marketing focus and customer orientation. I want San Miguel to be known as a marketing and consumer goods company, not as a beer manufacturer.

Hopefully, we'll also be a regional player. We should be number one in all our market segments.

I also want us to be number one in all the market segments in which we compete.

Q: A huge bulk of San Miguel's business is in beer, do you expect that it's always going to be that way?

A: Well, it's never healthy to have one product supporting the whole organization. Like it's not healthy to have a province have one crop to support all the people there. So the more products you can produce, the more flexible, more stable you'll become.

Q: You have been quoted as saying that you want to transform San Miguel into a logistics and distribution powerhouse for the Philippines and possibly the region, how are you planning to bring about this transformation?

A: This transformation has already begun. We're currently working on the technology side, putting into place the software infrastructure that will be the backbone of this whole logistics powerhouse. Over the next four years we should have about 80 or so logistics centers throughout the Philippines.

It's interesting since we first announced this vision to our stockholders two years ago, our plans have painted it as some sweeping vision that we have. But in essence, it really couldn't be more simple. Our objective is to have a whole range of products available to the consumer at the least possible cost and greatest convenience.

Q: How do you think will the Pure Foods and Coke acquisitions add value to the total group?

A: These two acquisitions are going to make us number one in the beverage and food segments. Pure Foods will allow us to consolidate our poultry and feeds segments and further strengthen our position in the value-added processed meats segment. With Coke, we'll certainly be the biggest in soft drinks and we're also going to be able to consolidate our water and juice businesses with them.

Q: You called the Coke acquisition a "super deal." Why?

A: I feel we got back CCBPI at an excellent price. We're getting the operations back practically at the same ownership levels for less than the amount we originally sold the business in 1997. We also earned from the Coca-Cola Beverages spin-off. To top it off, we now have full management control.

Q: What are you proudest of as chair of SMC?

A: I'm proud of our employees. Without their commitment, passion and hard work, there would be nothing. We have such a good team at San Miguel, it's largely on the back of our close to 15,000 plus employees that we've been able to turn in such good results.

Q: How do you hope to maintain strong growth over the long-term?

A: Well, I suppose there will be a limit in the end. But you've got to keep on innovating, raising your levels of execution and you probably have to look for acquisitions as well. Those are the things that we have to concentrate on.

We're doing the work. We continue to implement programs to spur growth, increase volumes. We're making sure that San Miguel is capable of producing the results our shareholders have come to expect from us. At the next meeting, we're going to stand on our results.

Subic-Tarlac road project OKd

COMMUTERS to and from Clark and Subic will soon enjoy shorter and safer travel time while economic activities in both central and northern Luzon are expected to increase with the construction of two major expressways worth P19 billion.

The Cabinet-level Investment Coordination Committee has approved for endorsement to the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) Board the construction of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac toll road project.

The road project will involve the construction, operation and maintenance of two major toll roads. The first is the Subic-Clark Expressway, which will be a 55.80-km long, four-lane highway. The second is the North Luzon Expressway (NLE), which will be a 33.50-km long, new four-lane highway.

The project aims to alleviate the worsening traffic condition along the Manila North Road, the North Luzon Expressway and the Pan-Philippine Highway and, at the same time, provide an all-weather, high speed, controlled access between the central and northern regions of Luzon. The road alignment will also serve as an alternate route to the lahar-threatened Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo Road.

The proposed road project will cut across rivers and lahar wastelands, thus waterway structures will be constructed such as the 2.5-km Pasig-Potrero River crossing along the Subic-Clark segment and a 600-m Sacobia-Bamban River crossing as part of the NLE. A total of 35 bridges and minor drainage structures will be constructed, with 28 located within the Subic-Clark section and seven within the North Luzon Expressway. The project will also include the construction of tollway structures such as interchanges, overpasses, and farm crossings.

The construction of the toll road project is designed to integrate and provide direct and efficient link among vital development areas in Central Luzon, namely the Subic Bay Special and Economic Freeport Zone in Bataan, the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga and the Central Techno Park in Tarlac. The road project is also expected to bring savings in shipping surcharges.

Singapore firm opens RP plant

MIYOSHI Precision Ltd. of Singapore formally inaugurated its first manufacturing plant in the Philippines at the Carmelray Industrial Park II in Calamba, Laguna.

The plant houses the operations of the group's subsidiaries—wholly owned Miyoshi Technologies Philippines Inc. (MTP) and 70-percent owned Mediamac Philippines Inc. (MMP)—which will provide enhanced one-stop precision engineering services to multinational customers operating in the Philippines. Miyoshi Precision has so far pumped in P167 million in its Philippine operations.

The Carmelray plant is Miyoshi Precision's third manufacturing location, complementing its facilities in Singapore, where the group's headquarters are located, and in Malaysia. It is the group's biggest single capital investment project outside Singapore and is part of a growth strategy of establishing a network of regional manufacturing plants close to its regional customers.

Miyoshi's new manufacturing plant in the Carmelray Industrial Park represents the type of investment the Philippine Economic Zone Authority is trying to promote and to develop the zone into a thriving manufacturing hub that will create employment in the area.

The Carmelray Industrial Park II is a joint venture between three Singapore companies led by JTC Pte. Ltd. and a Filipino company, Carmelray Industrial Corp.

NATIONAL REINSURANCE CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

THE NATIONAL RE SUPPORTS THE GSIS'S MOVE, AND IS CONFIDENT THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT IS APPRECIATED BY THE GREATER MAJORITY OF THE NON-LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE COUNTRY.

National Re Supports the GSIS Commitment to Secure the Best Insurance for All Government Assets

National Reinsurance Corporation of the Philippines (National Re) welcomes the issuance of GSIS Order No. 10-01 in pursuance of the GSIS's mandate to secure the best insurance for all government assets at the least cost and greatest protection. The Office Order provides that pending the finalization of new accreditation criteria for the selection of reinsurers and reinsurance brokers, the General Insurance Group of the GSIS shall offer its reinsurance surplus to National Re and any excess over its retention shall in turn be offered to local companies which are stockholders of National Re and are in good standing with both institutions. Any further surplus after the local placements shall be offered to the top and largest international reinsurers.

Transparency & Equity in the Distribution of GSIS's Reinsurance

The company recognizes that the GSIS's objective is to promote the distribution of its reinsurance business in a transparent manner and as widely as possible, which is consistent with the policy statements in PD 1270, which created National Re. In line with this objective, National Re's and its Retrocessionaires' acceptances are based on their respective retention capacities only. While the Order entails a lot of work on the part of National Re, as every subject risk has to be first offered facultatively to the local companies, the Company nevertheless welcomes the opportunity to be of greater service to its stockholders-cessionaires and to participate in attaining GSIS's commendable objective.

Assistance in Developing the Local Insurance Industry & Saving Foreign Exchange

We at National Re look at the move as an auspicious opportunity for the local insurance companies - large, medium-sized or small—to share in the reinsurance business of the GSIS. As a result of GSIS's new policy direction, there are now many more local insurance companies being given the opportunity to participate in the reinsurance business of the GSIS. Furthermore, the Order will not only help develop the local insurance industry, but it will also minimize the outflow of precious foreign exchange.

National Re was Organized under PD 1270, is Owned by and Represents the Local Insurance Industry

National Re is owned by 19 life and 97 non-life insurance companies authorized to do business in the Philippines, which represent practically all the local direct writing non-life insurance firms. The company was organized in 1978 by virtue of PD 1270 to be the vehicle that will provide a well-coordinated and efficient machinery in reinsurance for the purpose of achieving a higher national retention indispensable to the growth of healthy insurance and reinsurance markets. Since its establishment, the Company has attained considerable progress through sound and professional management and the unwavering support of its stockholders and ceding companies. With assets amounting to P1.9 billion and gross premiums of P1.2 billion in 2000, National Re is now the largest domestic professional reinsurance company owned and controlled predominantly by the private sector and partly by the GSIS.

Santa Elena made it in 1999.

Sta. Elena - Golf Club of the Year 1999

Inquirer Golf

IMF, Europe slash world economic growth forecasts

BERLIN—The prospects for global economic growth this year were cut back sharply Wednesday in gloomy forecasts from both the IMF and the European Commission.

The two bodies, however, painted a brighter picture for 2002.

The IMF, which is to release its official forecasts Thursday, was predicting global growth would slow to 3.2 percent this year from 4.8 percent in 2000, said a German government source, who declined to be named.

In September last year, it had been forecasting global growth in 2001 of 4.2 percent.

No IMF forecast was provided by the source for worldwide growth expectations in 2002. But based on the predictions for the different economic regions, overall growth was expected to recover.

Growth in the United States, the powerhouse of the world economy, was forecast by the IMF to plunge to 1.5 percent this year from 5.0 percent in 2000 before rising to 2.5 percent in 2002, the source said.

The stagnant Japanese economy, the world's second biggest, was expected to expand by a mere 0.6 percent this year after growth of 1.7 percent last year, the source said.

Japan would be able to report growth of 1.5 percent in 2002.

The European Union, meanwhile, forecast that global gross domestic product would rise just 3.3 percent this year against an exceptional 4.8-percent expansion last year.

But "the impact on the EU is forecast to be limited, providing that the transmission mechanism is confined to the trade channel," said the commission's spring outlook.

"EU exports to the US represent about 3.0 percent of EU GDP (and) it is estimated that the direct impact of slower US import growth will shave one-quarter percent off EU growth," it said.

The EU executive forecast growth in the 12-nation euro zone of 2.8 percent in 2001, compared to an earlier forecast in November of 3.2 percent. It expected euro-zone growth of 2.9 percent in 2002, compared to an earlier forecast of 3.0 percent.

The International Monetary Fund forecast for the single currency area was more pessimistic.

It expected economic growth in the 12-country euro-zone would drop to 2.4 percent in 2001 from 3.4 percent last year. But the expansion would pick up again next year to 2.8 percent, it said.

Within the euro zone, the biggest economy, Germany, would expand by just 1.9 percent this year, the IMF predicted, down from 3.0 percent in 2000.

But German growth would pick up again next year to 2.6 percent.

The IMF was expecting growth in France to slow to 2.6 percent both this year and next year from 3.2 percent last year, the source said.

The Fund nevertheless expected the outlook for the single currency area to remain "relatively favorable" despite the global economic slowdown, the source said.

On Tuesday, IMF chief Horst Koehler had said that the global economy was in a "critical phase," while adding that there was a good chance that activity could pick up later in the year. *AFP*

US seen limping to 10-year expansion

NEW YORK—Surprisingly robust consumer spending and a shrinking trade gap likely kept creaking US economic growth in positive territory in the first quarter of 2001, rounding out a full decade of economic expansion, economists said.

"Consumer spending was stronger than most people thought. It's helped the economy stay out of recession," said Stan Shipley, an economist at Merrill Lynch. "But this is still very poor growth. I don't see anything on the horizon that says the second quarter will be much better."

If growth remains positive in the first three months of this year, it will mean the US economy has grown for 10 full years despite concerns earlier this year that the recent slowdown would leave the expansion short of that mark.

Economists polled by Reuters on average forecast that real gross domestic product grew at a pace of 1.1 percent, a touch faster than the one-percent growth seen in the final quarter of last year.

But while GDP growth maintained the same sluggish pace seen in the prior quarter, inflation likely ticked higher. Economists said that might spook investors as rising inflation pressures could slow the Federal Reserve's aggressive campaign of cutting interest rates to reignite the economy.

The GDP price deflator, a gauge of annualized inflation for the quarter, rose by 2.8 percent from the previous quarter's 2.0 percent, according to the economists polled. *Reuters*

HK March exports seen slowing

HONG KONG—Hong Kong export growth is expected to slow markedly in March compared to the previous month due to shrinking global demand.

Five economists gave an average forecast of 3.9 percent for year-on-year total exports growth which would be more than half the 10 percent rise seen in February but close to growth of 4.6 percent last December.

The figures will be released later on Thursday.

Hong Kong exports of goods grew 21 percent in the first quarter of 2000 and 13 percent in the final quarter, taking full-year growth to around 17 percent in 2000.

The range given for the March number was wide, with one house expecting total exports to grow just 0.5 percent on the year due to a particularly high year-ago base and a marked slowdown in mainland China exports that month.

But most of those surveyed expected exports to grow between 4 and 5 percent year-on-year amid a better-than-expected performance by mainland China exports in the first quarter which would reflect on Hong Kong's re-export numbers.

China exports rose 14.7 percent on the year to $59.27 billion in the first quarter—off a blistering 27.8 percent for all of last year but higher than some forecasts.

"Hong Kong's export growth in March shouldn't be that bad given the kind of slowdown we're seeing in much of Asia because China is not as exposed to the electronics slowdown," said Bank of East Asia senior economist Paul Tang.

"But (Hong Kong's) outlook remains cloudy and we'll need to see the US economy stabilizing before it improves."

Bank of East Asia would probably need to revise downwards its 9.4 percent total export growth forecast in real terms for 2001, he said *Reuters*

Singapore sets up $16-M fund for broadband

SINGAPORE—Singapore has set up a S$30-million ($16.6-million) fund to speed up the adoption of broadband services, Minister of State for Communications Lim Swee Say said Thursday.

The fund, managed by the Infocomm Development Authority, which both develops and regulates Singapore's telecoms market, would target households, workplaces and schools, Lee told the opening of a broadband conference.

Primarily aimed at developing access to broadband and facilitating the trials of broadband products and services, the service needed industry input to be effective, he said.

"The success of these three initiatives for the home, work and learning environments will depend on the active participation of our industry players, both local and foreign," he said.

"We hope our industry players will come forward with proposals to help increase broadband penetration in all three environments."

Singapore, with a population of just over three million, already has 300,000 broadband users, with the number expected to reach 400,000 by the end of the year.

Broadband offers faster transmission of voice, data and video, with a wide range of applications from hihg-speed Internet access to on-demand movies, games and shopping through televisions and computers. *AFP*

NEC to withdraw from overseas DRAM output

TOKYO—Japanese computer giant NEC Corp. said Thursday it would end most of its overseas production of dynamic random access memory chips due to falling global demand.

"We are going to stop DRAM production overseas because prices are sharply falling due to depressed demand for chips worldwide," said an NEC spokesman who declined to be named.

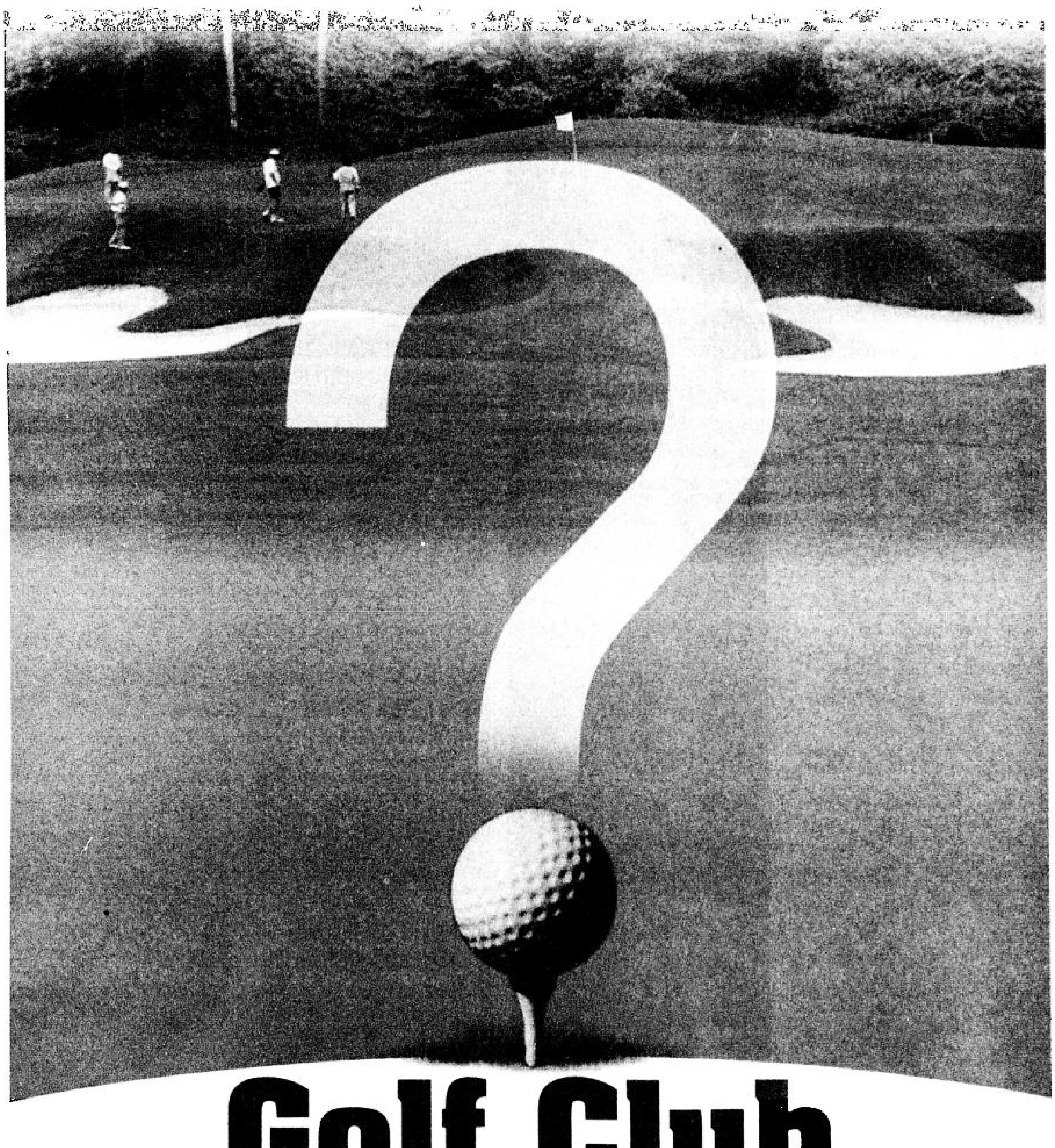
"We will focus our DRAM production at our domestic plant," he said.

The company said it would end DRAM production at its plant in Roseville, California, by June 30 and at a plant in Scotland next year.

NEC will also cut back its DRAM production at its Chinese joint venture, Shanghai HuaHong NEC Co. Ltd., over the next three years, although limited operations would continue.

The DRAM output from the three overseas plants accounts for about 40 percent of NEC's total production. *AFP*

Which club will it be in Year 2000?



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BIBLE OF STOCKS

Wall St. hangs on First Call nos. crunching

BOSTON—In an anonymous brick warehouse on a nondescript back street of south Boston, a team of analysts for Thomson Financial/First Call crunch mountains of corporate profit data.

Investors around the globe jump at the outcome—a concise compilation of analysts' profit forecasts for public companies. These so-called consensus numbers can make or break a company's stock price, depending on whether they beat or miss forecasts.

"They're the Bible," said Phil Brown, a portfolio manager with StoneRidge Investment Partners LLC in Malvern, Pennsylvania, who uses First Call data to see whether profits of the companies he holds beat analyst forecasts.

"Everyone uses them," Brown said. "I'm in (their data bank) almost everyday just to get a flavor of what analysts are predicting."

Brown is among some 101,000 users, including US Federal Reserve governors, top money managers and individual investors, who rely on First Call's gigantic database of forecasts that extend years into the future. Competitors are few, and when parent company, Thomson Corp., bought First Call's closest rival, IBES International, owned by Primark Corp. in 2000, its dominance became even more entrenched.

Though the monolith has been known to flub its numbers, most recently the first quarter consensus profit forecast for Fifth Third Bancorp, First Call has a reputation for accuracy and for setting and guarding accounting standards.

"There are a lot of accounting tricks, and First Call data have been especially clean," said Louis Navellier, who helps oversee $6 billion for investment firm Navellier & Associates. He says he accesses its statistics daily. Clients pay between $30,000 and $100,000 a year for this privilege.

Special challenges have emerged, though, and the pressure is on. Data fly in faster than ever—First Call now slogs through a third more analyst reports than a year ago—and the firm's higher profile brings more responsibility, such as special data requests from the media and US Fed governors, among others.

"If we're wrong, stocks can move for the wrong reason," said Chuck Hill, director of research at First Call. Hill's insights on the prospects for corporate profit growth are in such demand he has six different ties on hand for as many live television interviews a day.

A surprise spring blizzard blew outside First Call's south Boston office one recent day during earnings period. While passers-by ducked through swirling snow, analysts inside struggled with a storm of their own.

Almost one half of all companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index would report that week, fifty-five that day alone, and the one man responsible for calculating how many companies had missed or beaten profit forecasts was falling behind.

"Where's the General Motor's release?" hollered Joseph Cooper, a 31-year-old former flight instructor and rock climber, cursor blinking on the spreadsheet in front of him. Another analyst, Ken Perkins, dropped his own work scanning reports from the smaller companies in the S&P 600 to scan the press release and yell numbers over a cubicle wall to Cooper, who fed numbers to the computer.

That Wednesday morning, Cooper's spreadsheet showed 59 percent of all companies that had reported so far had beaten analysts' forecasts, vital information for investors trying to determine the likelihood of an economic turnaround.

Even more importantly, Cooper's data showed companies had beaten estimates by a mere 1.7 percent on average—lower than the usual 2.9 percent, indicating the turnaround would be slow to come.

Important clients seem to have heeded such dour statistics. In mid-afternoon, the US Fed, which had called First Call the day before to inquire about profit growth forecasts for technology companies, announced a surprise interest rate cut to help boost the sagging economy.

Downstairs, First Call analyst Gregory Dowling barely blinked at the rate cut. He was too busy helping a team of 21 data processors burrow through a blizzard of reports citing changes in analyst forecasts for US and foreign companies. During a single week in January, the team had input more than 6,500 changes. That's almost three per minute during an eight-hour workday.

Dowling's team has been pushed to its limit this year as a record number of earnings warnings and a corresponding surge in analyst reports have pounded the group. Mistakes occur. On April 16, First Call data showed that analysts it surveyed expected bank Fifth Third to report earnings of 52 cents a share, rather than 51 cents, Cooper said.

This is a dangerous slip as shares often fall if a company's quarterly results miss consensus forecasts. First Call changed the forecast five minutes before Fifth Third announced earnings of 51 cents, Cooper said, and called major news organizations to point out the mistake.

First Call is also placed in the position of enforcing some accounting standards. *Reuters*

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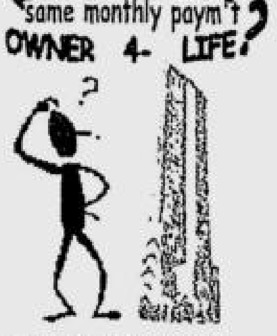
Roxas Blvd w/Bay View 123BR Terms Call 928-2369


RENTER 4-LIFE
same monthly paym't?
OWNER 4- LIFE?
?

LOC. NR RXAS BLVD.
DP = 25T-81T / mo.
Pay in 10 mos. @ 0 Int.
BAL. = 11T – 27T/ mo.
Pay in 10 yrs.
834-6841 & 831-7046

PASIG

**Renaissance Ortigas 1-3Br Rush Sale 6812457

Greenhills FA148m² P4M Aneapolis P-S LOT 4134411

AIC Gold 200m² 4BR 7.2M Rent@P60T 412-1825

Phoenix Heights 2BR 120m² P4.8M 412-1825

Office Condo Ortigas 38Th /m² Cell 09174149898

PARAGON PLAZA EDSA Res Studio • T634-1212

Renaissance 3000 2Bdrms 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Renaissance 3000 New 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Renaissance Tower Meralco Ave. Call 634-8160

Renaissance Tower 237m² 3br 8.5Mneg 8150298/5341271

Sam Miguel Ave. 86.17m² 1Pkrg • T634-1212

TEKTITE EAST 220 sqm 2Parking • T634-1212

OTHER AREAS

Condotel Facing L. Taal P1.1M Praise 7532532/33

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
near SM Bacoor
Initial DP: P15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P15,000
FORTE REALTY
2/F Princesa Bldg. Esteban St, Legaspi Village, Makati City
810-7183 810-8019
815-2144 829-5081
810-7297 872-7603
871-8318
Welcome Brokers & Agents

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Condo 1.3M EZTerm 9126976 9132224 4381480

1-BR Condo unit frnting Ateneo, One Burgundy Plaza Katipunan Rd. QC P1.5M cntc Lyn T-5320141/(0917)4192637

PARC CHATEAU PENTHSE 226sqm 1ps • 6337601-03

Blue Ridge 4 3BR 3TB MR w/TB 2CG 6.5M • 928-2497

El Jardin Bohol Ave QC 2 Studios 1Cg Call 915-5177

Kamias 3Dr 12M 9155177

Nr Ateneo LA72 FA149 3br 2tb Nr Nice 6453731

Nr West Ave FA230m² 4.2M 4sty 3BR 2CG new 4134411

PANAY 3BR P5M 722-8951

Scout Area 3BR 3TB 2CG MR w/TB 5.5M • 928-2497

Scout Thses 4-7M Nice 3Stry 9283267 9283267

Narra Hts1 3BR 2TB 1CG 125m² 915-5177 641-9346

SAN JUAN

Annapolis Greenhills 2-3 BR 7-8M 9283267

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

SAN JUAN

Condo 3BR 137 P4M Call 723-2391

Ghills 3br P5.5M w/ Huge Blcny Call 723-2391

Ghills Anapolis FA130 Ofc / Res 2Br P3.8M 723-2391

Ghills Anapolis Condo 3br P9-11M 723-2391

G'hills Condo 3BR P5.5M Fur/Unfur • 723-2391

Ghills Ofc Condo 70m² w/Prkng FFur P32M 723-2391

Greenhills Condo 1BR FA 70 P3M 723-2391

Greenhills Eisenhower St., 3br P6-8M Call 723-2391

Greenhills Ofc 70²m w/Prkng P31M 723-2391

Nr G'Hills LA67 FA200 3br 7M 2Cg Nice 6453731

One Beverly Place 7.2M 3br mq pkg 157m² 6435313

San Juan Thse FA289 3br Attic P11.6M 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

Europa Condo FA171sqm Price P4M • 655-9393

VARIOUS AREAS

Makati/Ortigas 300-1500m² Ready to Use • 533-5525

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Fanicsy World M. Share Praise Realty 7532532/33

Fontana Share 200T 9283267 / 141210187

FARM/FISHPEN

21Has Mango Orchard & Resort Bataan • 937-1536

LIPA 3 & 7 Has P120/m² 7343386

Rawland Montalban 722-8951

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

3BRnrDLSlle Taft 8992148

HOUSE

ALABANG

4BR/DEN 5 bath swimming pool. spacious lawn CALL: 879-8543/879-3098 Look for Vangie/Alice #88 A. Roxas Chua Ave., Pacific Village Alabang, Muntinlupa

MAKATI

Sanlo Maglines Belair Ecovil 1BR 5BR Mel Call 815-0298

MARIKINA

3BRnr sch church mkt9411342

PARANAQUE

4BR3T SSHW UPS4 8212019

QUEZON CITY

10B Malumanay St. Sikatuna Vill. 2BR&TB 15T/mo Alan 8184277

RIZAL

RENT 2 OWN Country Homes Cainta P9T/mo. 656-6491

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR FFurn P58T 892-4832 Renaissance Salcedo Makati

Crown Tower Condo, Salcedo Vill 2BR 163sqm FF w/Pkg, Mds Rm. P60T/mo. 896-6665

Essensa East Forbes
Luxury 3BR Res Units
@ Fort Boni
752-2580•848-7388 0917-8381928•0917-8112635
manila@cbrichardellis.com

IT Bldg Fort Boni Enjoy D Benefits P350/m² 671-4421

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Mkt Asia Tower 1-2-3Br 7518342 6337601-03

Mkli Legaspi Salcedo 250m² GF Ortigas Mel Call 815-0298

MANILA

1BR nrDLSU 57m² 9175364840

MANDALUYONG

Cityland Shaw Studio Furn 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

PIONEER 1BR • 722-8951

PASIG

Horizon Meralco Ave 3BR Furn Pool P50T 681-9954

Rush! Rent / Sale Ortigas Renaissance 09178143792

Valle Verde 3BR FA=250 P35-38T • 723-2391

Valle Verde 6 2BR P19T 723-2391 • 0917-3848111

VVerde 6 3Brs w/Attic P35T/mo 6337601-03

SAN JUAN

Eisenhower Comm'l Unit 83.80m² 5313742

VARIOUS AREAS

Makati/Ortigas 2-3BRs 122-300m² 25T-85T 533-5525

FOR LEASE

1-3 Hec P50-70/m² With Bldg Cell 0917-4149898

BANK SITE FOR LEASE OR RENT along Edsa Pasay near Evangelista Makati formerly UCPB Malibay Branch for 8 years 714-28-50 0917-5351445 714-80-20 0917-530-5525

Ind'l Lot Ideal 4 Mall 3Has Libis 4 Lease • T634-1212

LOAN & MORTGAGE

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Edwin/ Gigie 8903461 loc. 25/27

LOANS 4 DOCTORS, DENTISTS, SALARY BUSINESS SSS 524-3197

BUSINESS RENTAL

**Antel Global 142m² 350/m² Call 6812457

Com'l Space 4 Rent
Alng Mindnao Ave cor TSora Ave nr Sch Church & best 4 B-saloon, cafe bar, office & others 9396971/ 72

Coml/Res@ B.G. Belmonte St nr E Rodriguez QC 721-6386

**JMT BLdg 318m² at 280/m² Call 6812457

P1,800/mo Stalls
Malate T-400-6420/23
Sn.Pedro Lag. 808-6006/07

**Taipan Ortigas 129m² Call 681-2457

**Tektite 101m² Up at 300/m² Call 6812457

70m² Roosevelt Ave. 2C 438-3970; 0917-7914379

Ayala Life FEU Center F282m² 2Pkg Lot 928-1469

Cnta30m²Clnic/Shp6552773

● PSE-TEKTITE ● 50m² FF 631-4640 / 57

Makati Office Space 195m² 500/m² • 533-5525

Ortigas Ctr 100/200/400sqm 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

RESORT

Bhse in Old Taal 631-9964

PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

'98 GRACE P250T 731-3492

'98 GRACE P265T 731-3492

'99 H100 345T 7313492

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS

KIA

'98 PREGIO P330T 7313492

MERCEDES

'85Benz 580T 09198194190

'98 MB100D P395 7313492

MB 126 Body See 2 apprcie • 634-8160

MITSUBISHI

97Lncr GLXi 263T Neg8382015

Space Wagon Acq. 93 Call Tel.# 634-8160

JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

99 ISUZU Frwd 6W P350T Vic 8903461 Loc. 27 & 25

VAN/PICK-UP

URGENT SALE VAN FROM KOREA 94 MODEL P220T BESTA 92 MODEL GRACE P180T T7317911

OTHER CAR BRANDS

USED CAR SALE
AUTO MYX
"YOUR AUTO PALENGKE SA COMMONWEALTH"
#43 Commonwealth Ave, Q.City
*Accepts trade-in
*Spaces available for lease.
'00 Rio HB Assume Bal.
'00 Kia CD5 ECCO
'97 Hyundai Coupe AT
'96 Preglo LS MT P325
'95 Galant Vr4 AT P290
Nissan Infinity AT w/ All Options
See or Call:
FAUSTO BADIOLA
Tel: 951-2201 loc. 210 / 223
Fax: 932-7646

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Bnew L300 8261045 8254056

Van Coaster Bus 440-91-71

CARS•VANS•8955627•8957247 BUS•CSTER•BRIDAL•8969956

FXcheapprov.rates3730584

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

MB 100 Van 643-7397

New HiAce 6336754/9100893

SELFDRIVE-New Cars & Vans, Daily or Long Term ABC-5368822/3039789

STAREX L3 9121809/7268386

UDrive Carsvans 8006595

Car Vans 4535288/9296250

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS LENDING 8990215

We Buy Cars Cash 6718191

CAR LOAN

CAR-IN-LOAN!!! Highest appraisal yet Lowest interest with future investment 8317046/5517901/02

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 3670169

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

Security Svs. 714-4361

PETS

Labrador Yel 4mos 2mos 2M2F 9976469 09178458452

SPORTING GOODS

Billiard 23T 25T & 30T New Accept C.Card • 781-9453

B.Table B'New/Accessories (02)801-4494/802-0566

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

SPORTING GOODS

Imported billiard 22T, 35T complete acc's. 8618714 to 16 / 8613123 / 8613125

STRIKEMASTER Bowling & Billiards Sales & Rentals T-9341569

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair **ROLEX** Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2888

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T8342888

MISCELLANEOUS

Computer P15T 435-2335

Brand New Nokia 8210 P12,000 Call 820-5702

FIGHTING COCK

Rdy2Fight 30 Kamuning RdQC

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Bookkeeper Prof CPA Exp Clerk- Driver 833-1836

WANTED Result oriented individual with at least 10 yrs. work experience in Building/Property Management to the position of Building Manager. Application must be submitted to Roxas Land Corporation, Tower One, Ayala Ave., Makati City Tel# 841-56-09

FEMALE

Cook 4 Foreigner 726-1266

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 7284971

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Nutritionist Walter 3010068

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY At least two years experience. Must have: Excellent organizational skills Good verbal and written English Proficient with Office software 8951368 or 78

CARE GIVER T5280722

Ofc. staff 9134470 Nell

Ofc Staff 9134470 Ms Dang

. Ofc.Staff 9134470-Nicol

OFFC. STAFF CALL MS. MARIAN 7366660

P200 CAD/Manual Drafting P8/m² Struc'l/Elec'l/Mech'l Sanitary Design-7282605

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Real Estate Seminar Licensure Start May 4 REBAP QC Call 743-9094

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN $/WK 292-6137

JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSS. FREE DEMO 2853584/2537617

RTW / Swimsuits 727-4934

RTW Cash/Consign 373-8821

T-SHIRT SALE TEL4383147

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE

Notice is given that the Phil. Passport with #DD392949 owned by MARIA ELIZABETH LESACA-NACABUAN was lost.
(PDI-April 27, 2001)

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given the public that MR. WILBUR N. CALUNSAG, POEA Liaison is no longer connected with ORIENTAL SHIPMANAGEMENT CO., INC. effective March 15, 2001. He resigned at his own accord.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID FOR SURVEYORSHIP

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be holding a pre-bidding and bidding conference among accredited surveyors on **May 07, 2001** and **May 09, 2001**, respectively at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City for the disport surveyorship of the following commodities:

LOT	COMMODITY	QTY.(IN MT)	DISPORT	DELIVERY SCHEDULE/ETA
A	US WHITE CORN	30,000, 10% MOLSO	CEBU	MAY 30
B	RICE	125,000, 10% MOLSO	MANILA	WITHIN MAY/JUNE/JULY

Only qualified surveyors and/or their authorized representatives shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Issuance of pre-qualification requirements shall be available from **April 26-30, 2001** (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) at Foreign Operations Division - Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Avenue, Q.C. Interested new applicants for accreditation shall have until **May 03, 2001** (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) to submit requirements for accreditation. Further, NFA accredited surveyors must update existing records as maybe deemed necessary not later than 1700 HRS, **May 03, 2001** to qualify in said bidding. Results of accreditation will be announced during the pre-bidding proper.

Sealed offers must be submitted between 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM on the bidding date accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 5% of total offer in the form of Cashier's, Manager's check, bank or demand draft in PHP which must be drawn from a reputable bank in Metro Manila. Accredited offerors may submit price quotes either for LOT A and/or LOT B.

The bidding terms and conditions shall be available at the Foreign Operations Division - Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor starting **04 May 2001** from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Bid Form will be available on **May 07, 2001** after the pre-bidding conference at Foreign Operations Division - Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Avenue, Q.C. (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 2,000.00 at the Directorate for Treasury, Budget and Fund Management, Matimyas Bldg., 8th Flr., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

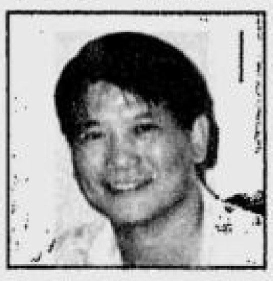
Opening of bids will start exactly at 2:00 PM of the bidding date.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities or defects found therein and may accept bid/s most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE V. RACHO**
Assistant Administrator
and Chairman, Bidding Committee

(PDI--April 26, 27 & 28, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



MR. CHEN YU alias **JACKSON YU**, a Taiwanese citizen whose picture appears above has a pending criminal case #0093119 for violation of B.P. Building 22 at MTC Branch 41, Quezon City before the Sala of Judge Gregorio Dayrit. If you know the whereabouts of this person, please contact Tel. No. 927-9677.

(PDI -- Apr. 27, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
PROVINCIAL AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICE
San Sebastian St., Dawis
Bacolod City 6100
Tel. Nos. 433-8124, 433-8130, 435-1680
FAX Nos. 433-8123, 433-8129

In reply Please Address:
PROV'L. AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICER
Department of Agrarian Reform
San Sebastian St., Dawis
Bacolod City 6100

March 29, 2001

NOTICE OF CARP COVERAGE FOR THE LAND IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Notice of Coverage is hereby given to:

Landowner	Title No.	Lot No.	Area (Has.)	Location
1. ROMA AGRICULTURAL CORPORATION	T-161227	607	14.7692	Sagay City
- do -	- do -	556	9.5576	Sagay City
- do -	- do -	557	3.3967	Sagay City
- do -	- do -	559	17.9243	Sagay City
- do -	- do -	562	13.6586	Sagay City
- do -	- do -	578	14.9384	Sagay City
- do -	- do -	579	55.4467	Sagay City
- do -	- do -	581	16.8852	Sagay City
- do -	- do -	1384	7.0451	Sagay City
2. Spouses Francisco R Lopez & Carolina De la Paz	T-27414	603	10.6023	Sagay City
3. Carolina De la Paz M/t Francisco R. Lopez	T-692-N	601	49.0532	Sagay City
4. Rosa Co Unjiong, Et. Al.	T-4626	907	75.6759	Cadiz City
5. Papias A. Hautea	T-8881	SI-V-5131	12.6963	Cadiz City
6. Papias A. Hautea	T-8862	H-127339	23.8870	Cadiz City
7. Papias A. Hautea	T-8892	A	10.6266	Cadiz City
8. Papias A. Hautea	T-8863	H-129076	22.9108	Cadiz City
9. Papias A. Hautea	T-8893	B	10.6386	Cadiz City
10. Lourdes Solatorio Alba	(T-5244)-95	892-C	16.1616	Cadiz City
11. Rosita Consing, Et. Al.	T-142913	670	134.2001	E.B. Magalona
12. Angeles J. Montinola	T-137894	865-B	63.8307	E.B. Magalona
13. Angeles J. Montinola	T-137896	708-B	117.1459	E.B. Magalona
14. Angeles J. Montinola	T-137893	709-A	26.6264	E.B. Magalona
15. Eduardo R. Lopingco/Greenworld Agricultural Dev't. Corp.	T-145562	706	2.6232	E.B. Magalona
16. Eduardo R. Lopingco/Greenworld Agricultural Dev't. Corp.	T-145563	817	165.2005	E.B. Magalona
17. Eduardo R. Lopingco/Greenworld Agricultural Dev't. Corp.	T-145559	700	8.4342	E.B. Magalona
18. Republic Planters Bank	T-140447	663-A	2.6829	E.B. Magalona
19. Republic Planters Bank	T-161356	766-B-2-D-3-B-6	16.7992	E.B. Magalona
20. PISON-LOCBIN KAUTURAN (PILKA) AGRO-INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION	T-140060	1169	119.6362	Talisay
21. Lorenzo U. Benedicto	T-131903	331-D	43.3192	Murcia
22. Leticia Z. Castro, Et. Al.	T-118935	1282-B-10	1.6822	Valladolid
23 INAEC AGRO-INDUSTRIAL	T-134311	637	57.8890	La Castellana
24. Angela Estate, Inc.	T-22331	737-B	118.1437	La Castellana
25. Jose Mapa Gomez	T-46780	947-B	29.2102	La Castellana
26 Jose Mapa Gomez	T-39781	954	36.9934	La Castellana
27. Jose Mapa Gomez	T-46787	870	11.6998	La Castellana
28 Tipolo Cattle Farms, Inc.	T-49309	948-A	23.3935	La Castellana
29 Benjamin Gomez	T-108820	875-A-1-A	21.6804	La Castellana
30 Benjamin Gomez	T-108821	875-A-1-B	26.0159	La Castellana
31 Benjamin Gomez	T-49347	1819-A	9.4241	La Castellana
32 Benjamin Gomez	T-108822	875-A-1-C	29.7618	La Castellana
33 G V & Sons, Inc.	T-35601	163-B	132.5172	La Castellana
34 Genaro Goni	T-74564	1519	1.6959	La Castellana
35 Genaro Goni	T-74565	1521	2.2040	Hinigaran
36. Genaro Goni	T-74566	1522	1.6365	Hinigaran
37. Genaro Goni	T-74567	1457-A	15.4638	Hinigaran
38. Genaro Goni	T-74568	1850	1.3067	Hinigaran
39 Genaro Goni	T-74569	1515	13.0735	Hinigaran
40 Genaro Goni	T-74570	1495	2.2197	Hinigaran
41 Genaro Goni	T-74571	1490	33.3834	Hinigaran
42 Sergio T. Pangua	T-111661	4011	11.5901	Hinoba-an
43 Sergio T. Pangua	T-111661	4085	24.0088	Hinoba-an
44 Sergio T. Pangua/Roy V. Yanson	T-191502	1	5.0854	Hinoba-an
45 Sergio T. Pangua/Mark T. Yanson	T-191503	7	5.0854	Hinoba-an
46 Sergio T. Pangua/Leo Roy V. Yanson	T-191504	6	5.0856	Hinoba-an
47. Sergio T. Pangua/Ricardo V. Yanson	T-190505	5	5.0856	Hinoba-an
48 Sergio T. Pangua/Celina V. Yanson	T-190506	4	5.0856	Hinoba-an
49 Sergio T. Pangua/Ginette Yanson	T-190507	3	5.0858	Hinoba-an
50 Sergio T. Pangua/Emily Y. Ramos	T-190508	2	5.0857	Hinoba-an
51. Republic Planters Bank	P-154357	2917	8.3789	Kabankalan City
52. Melquides Pillado/ Digno de la Cruz/Phil. National Bank	P-4091	2984	10.3169	Ilog

Pursuant to Section 7 of R.A. 6657, you are hereby notified that your landholdings listed above are now covered under Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

In view hereof, may we invite you to a meeting anytime 10 days after publication of this notice at the MUNICIPAL AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICE where the property is located and other matters, pertaining to the coverage.

You are further informed of your right to select and retain an area in accordance with Section 6 of R.A. 6657, which should be more or less contiguous. Failure to appear on the said meeting or choose your retained area will mean, that you are leaving to us the discretion of the same.

As per E.O. 405, dated June 14, 1990 we will request Land Bank of the Philippines to determine the value of the land acquired, pursuant to Section 17 of R.A. 6657. Thereafter, we shall advise you of the valuation of your property through a Notice of Land Valuation as soon as we receive LBPs Memorandum of Valuation

We anticipate your presence and cooperation.

Very truly yours,
(Sgd.) ALEXIS M. ARSENAL
ARDO/Concurrent PARO II

(PDI -- April 27, 2001)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

Quezon City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD 2001-22

Rebidding Date: May 4, 2001 - 10:00 AM

PB010319-T2JD5952	AUTOMOTIVE STORAGE BATTERY, 2/3 SMF, Sealed Type, Maintenance Free
PB010328-T3JR5976	WELDING ELECTRODE, AWS 7018, Size: various sizes
PB010419-T3JR6064	CONNECTOR/CONDUIT
PB010419-T3WG6065	TRANSFORMER, 50/60 Hz 2 KW
PB010419-T3WG6066	WIRE, Magnet, size: 16 AWG
PB010419-T3WG6067	MULTI MEDIA PROJECTOR
PB010419-T3JR6068	MICROFILM IMAGELINK/DEVELOPER/FIXER
PB010419-T3JR6069	FACSIMILE MACHINE
PB010419-T3JR6070	FLUID, Calibration, Part#B5100/B51003
PB010419-T3JR6071	FUSER ASSEMBLY for HP Laserjet 5L Printer
PB010419-T3JR6072	MATERIALS FOR CLONAL PROPAGATION OF DIPTEROCARP SPECIES (Alcohol Distilled Water, Seedling Tray, Sodium Hydroxide, etc.)

** Bidding Date: May 16, 2001

2001-22-01	AIR HOSE, 300 psi, Size: ¼"
2001-22-02	PLATE, Carbon Steel, Size: 75mm x 1220x2438/SHAFTING BARS, ASTMA291, various sizes
2001-22-03	* CONSTRUCTION HARDWARE SUPPLIES (Paints, Paints Brush, Padlock, Door Lock, Cord, Plug, Lamp, Wire, Faucet, Nail, Sealant, Valve, Ballast, etc.) * To be purchased thru Open-Ended Puchase Order for a period of six months Starting June 2001

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P50.00, submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the telephone directory. **Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms to participate in this bidding is on May 3, 2001.

Bidding documents available on April 27, 2001 upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). ** Last day of issuance of bidding documents May 11, 2001.

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries please call no. 921-25-74.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI -- April 26 & 27, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission invites interested SUPPLIERS to submit sealed bids for the printing and supply of materials for the following items:

ITEMS	PRE-BID CONFERENCE
Optical Mark Reader Forms 1. Application for Admission 2. Identification/Answer Sheets	May 10, 2001

Pre-bid conference will be held at the PRC Conference Room. Failure to attend will be a ground for the disqualification to participate in the bidding.

Pre-qualification requirements and bidding documents are available at the Office of the Chairman, BAC, OFAS, 2nd Floor, Annex Building on **May 8, 2001**. Pre-qualification documents shall be submitted not later than **May 16, 2001**.

Submission and opening of bids shall be as follows:

ITEMS	SUBMISSION Technical & Financial Statement)	OPENING	
		TECHNICAL	FINANCIAL
OMR Application for Admission and ID/Answer Sheets	May 17, 2001	May 17, 2001 10:00 AM	May 27, 2001 10:00 AM

The two (2) envelop system shall be adopted in the bidding.

All bid proposals must be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to 2.5% of the total offer in the form of Manager's Check or GSIS Bond.

The Professional Regulation Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Commission.

(Sgd.) **DIR. TEOFILO GAIUS M. SISON, JR.**
Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI -- Apr. 26 & 27, 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

QUEZON CITY

NOTICE OF ALLOCATION OF 30,000 MT IMPORTED WHITE CORNGRAINS

Based on the Notice to All Interested White Corngrain Millers (Central Visayas-Region 7) published in two (2) daily newspapers last March 31, April 1 and 2, 2001, hereunder are the allocations of imported white corngrains per cornmiller as determined by the National Food Authority (NFA).

PROVINCE	CORNMILLER	REQUESTED VOL. (MT)	ALLOCATED VOL. (MT)
CEBU	GOSOTTO MILLING	200	200
	MACTAN MILLING	1,100	1,100
	CEBU CORN PRODUCTS	1,100	1,100
	CAPITOL MILLING	1,300	1,300
	GOODWILL MILLING	1,100	1,100
	MABUHAY MILLING	1,100	1,100
	EAST VISAYAN MILLING	1,300	1,300
	CEBU FILIPINAS MILLING	1,300	1,300
	VISAYAN CORN MILL CO.	1,300	1,300
	SANDY MILLING	1,100	1,100
	ATLAS CORN MILL	1,300	1,300
	FEDAS TRADERS, INC.	1,100	1,100
	EVERGREEN MILLING	600	600
	GOOD HOPE MILLING	1,100	1,100
NEGROS OR.	LLOYD D. LIMKAICHONG	150	150
	FERNANDO K. SOLON	250	250
	NENITA MARQUITA	150	150
	JOHANSING DY	300	300
	EUFRATES CREDO	450	450
	EXUPERIO C. LLTANAL	50	50
	ROBERTO SY/DURICO	3,000	3,000
	JIMMY D. HO	50	50
	ELORDE BELTRAN	45	45
	TOTAL	19,445	19,445

(Sgd.) **VICENTE V. RACHO**
Asst. Administrator and
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--April 26, 27 & 28, 2001)

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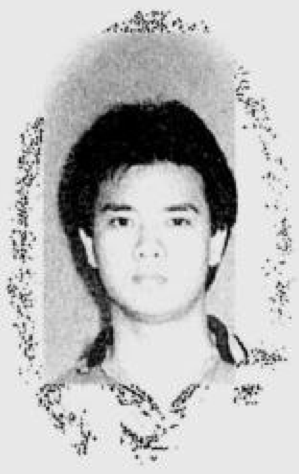
Eduardo Maceda Abad

June 14, 1961 – April 16, 2001



Seeing our dearest ED gone back to his Creator brought sadness to our family because we will terribly miss his sweet and loving memories. But knowing this ended his long suffering somehow ease our pain and loneliness. We drew strength from the prayers, support and sympathy of relatives and friends who stood by our side since day one of his diagnosis until his last day here on earth.

To all of you,
OUR DEEPEST THANKS!

Nanette, Jed, Ena
Dad Pacoy and Mom Ida

Thank You

We, the family of **Exaltacion Castillo-Ramos**,
who passed away on March 18, 2001
will always remember how your presence,
kind words and expression of oneness with us
comforted us when we were in deepest grief.

We invite relatives and friends
to a Holy Mass to be offered
at the Sto. Niño de Paz Community,
Greenbelt Chapel on Friday,
April 27, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.

We thank you even as we ask
that you include Excy in your prayers.

In Loving Memory
On the 5th Death Anniversary of

Maximo B. Ramos, Jr.

(July 9, 1939 - April 27, 1996)

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

1. Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City — 6:00 p.m.
2. St. John Bosco Parish, San Lorenzo, Makati City — 6:00 p.m.
3. Sto. Niño de Paz Community, Greenbelt Chapel, Makati City — 7:30 p.m.

We request the pious reader to join us in our prayers
for the eternal repose of our beloved's soul.

"From darkness let the light shine!"

Genesis 1:3

VENANCIA 'ASIANG' ALAS

of San Pedro and Guiguinto, Bulacan

peacefully joined our Lord on April 25, 2001
at the age of 93.

Beloved wife of **VICENTE F. ALAS** (†); loving mother of **MELY** and **TONY ONG**, **VITA** (†) and **CHULIT LIM** (†), **CARLOS** (†), **LINA** and **BERT ALCALA** and **EFREN (CHOY)** doting grandmother of all her grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 29 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

JOSE CRESPO JIMENEZ III

October 17, 1945 - April 25, 2001
55 years old

His siblings Narding, Evelyn, Danny, Benjie, Baby, Jessie, Julius and Eric; relatives Tia Gloria and Tito Ben; Ramon; nephews and nieces, and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Royal Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Masses will be offered at eight o'clock, every evening.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 29, 2001, 2:00 PM at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

GUILLERMO "MOMOY" CABAZAL SANTIAGO

Peacefully joined his Maker on April 25, 2001
at the age of 74.

His loving wife Remedios, and children Hilda & Bott, Berna & Danny, Tog & Carmel, Tes, Ann & Jeff, Ciso & Ellen and Victor, grandchildren, Molly, Paolo, Serene, Paco, Ellis, Faith, Cecille, Ino, Juan and Theo, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

His remains shall lie in state at the St. Joseph Chapel of St. John the Baptist Parish, 140 Pinaglabanan Street, San Juan, Metro Manila.

After a Requiem Mass at 7:00 a.m., Sunday, 29 April 2001, cremation will follow at the Eternal Gardens, North Diversion Road, Baesa, Caloocan City

---

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

Our Dearly Beloved

Edilberto Mapili Balangue

Peacefully joined our Creator on
the 24th day of April 2001
at the age of 67.

His loving wife **Alicia**; his beloved children **Eduardo** (†), **Edilberto** and **Judith**, **Angelica**; his grandchildren **Dianne, Nichole** and **Kyle**; his siblings and in-laws **Rufina** and **Dominador** (†), **Bernardo** (†) and **Margarita**, **Fred** (†) and **Letty**, **Remedios** and **Mauro**, **Orly** and **Josie** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Cainta, Rizal.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park Marikina on April 28. Kindly contact tel. no. 655-1062 for further details.

The Directors, Members, and Staff
of
The Manila Club
condole deeply with the family of

ATTY. ANTONIO V. AGCAOILI

who died on 17 April 2001 aged 65.

He was a member of The Manila
Club for 17 years, and he will
be sadly missed by his fellow
members and many friends.

RAMON H. ORDOVEZA, JR.

passed away on Monday,
April 23, 2001 in Daly City, California

The bereaved family requests the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

Here comes the Biotechnology Age

BIOTECHNOLOGY may be the upcoming "revolution" poised to define the next 100 years. While scientists have yet to discover the so-called fountain of youth, they have strong reasons to believe that people will live longer and healthier in the next century through advances in biotechnology.

According to recent studies, life expectancy will be longer—87 years for women and 79 years for men. Thanks to medical advances, there will also be lower incidences of heart disease and stroke.

Meanwhile, scientists consider genetically modified (GM) foods as the answer to world hunger and better nutrition. The "Golden Rice," for example, which is vitamin A-enriched, is touted to combat vitamin A deficiency (VAD), a disease responsible for 500,000 cases of irreversible blindness and one to two million deaths worldwide.

Using biotechnology in agriculture, crops can be made more resistant to insects, bacteria, fungi and viruses – all of which lead to global production losses of over 35 percent. Biotechnology can reduce the use of pesticides and increase crop yields, a definite advantage especially for poor farmers.

Th[illegible] and other exciting prospects in [illegible] of health were discussed during the "Interscholastic Science Congress" held recently at the Philippine Science High School in Quezon City. Sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, the science congress featured Benigno Peczon, president of the Biotechnology Association of the Philippines, Inc. and Dr. Remigio Olveda, director of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.

With the theme "The Philippines and the Emerging Global Bioeconomy," the science congress was participated in by students from various Metro Manila high schools. GlaxoSmithKline is committed to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer.

FEBUARY 27, 2001
eBworx
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INTERNET BANKING SYSTEM INVESTOR

Equitable PCI Bank recently acquired an e-banking solution from eBworx in preparation for providing its clients with retail banking services through the Internet. eBworx is a leading e-business solutions provider specializing in providing end-to-end business solutions to clients engaged in e-commerce. Shown in photo during the contract signing were (from left) Sergio Ll. Naranjilla, Jr., senior vice president and head of product development management division of Equitable PCI Bank; Dennis Bancod, senior vice president and chief technology officer of Equitable PCI Bank; Edilberto V. Javier, senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of Equitable PCI Bank; Medy Camerino, president of eBworx Philippines; Steven Tan, chief executive officer of eBworx and Suan Fong Tan, chief technology officer of eBworx.

HBC GRAND DRAW WINNER

The fastest growing chain of beauty stores, HBC Your Personal Store, recently awarded a brand new Tamaraw FX to its grand prize winner of the "Swerte Ang Ganda Mo, Panalo Ka Sa Bagong Milenyo" raffle promo. The promo was a tie-up with Splash Manufacturing Corporation, Johnson & Johnson, Ever Bilena Cosmetics, Wella Phils., Betadine Feminine Wash and L'Enais Hand Sanitizer. In photo are Marcel M. San Diego of Malolos Bulacan, grand prize winner (second from right), with Marcos J. Javier, HBC COO; Lito Serrano, HBC Store operations manager; Glenn S. Bolado, purchasing manager and Boots B. Santos, marketing manager.

Chewy pastilles fight osteoporosis

OSTEOPOROSIS, characterized by fragile and porous bones, is one of the most common diseases currently affecting women. It is caused by lack of calcium necessary to achieve peak bone mass, maintain bone density, support healthy pregnancy and lactation and, most importantly, to prevent bone loss that occurs with age.

To fight osteoporosis, a lot of calcium brands are made available in the market. There are tablets that are large and difficult to swallow and powdered milk that are inconvenient and not advisable for the lactose intolerant.

Abbott Laboratories has come out with a chewable calcium supplement to help prevent osteoporosis conveniently. Abbott Calci, a great-tasting, soft chewy pastille that doesn't require water to swallow is individually wrapped and comes in great-tasting mint and chocolate flavors. Abbott Calci is composed of 500 mg calcium carbonate and 200 I.U. Vitamin D.

Now, calcium supplements will no longer have to be a bitter pill to swallow with Abbott Calci.

REGIONAL MANAGERS FETED

Roche, world leader in vitamins and fine chemicals research and manufacturing, tendered a cocktail reception recently at the Roche Garden in Makati in honor of the firm's outgoing Southeast Asian regional manager Leo Damme (third from left). Damme is relocating to Tokyo, Japan. Also feted was Corazon Garalde (second from left), the first Filipino to be appointed human nutrition and health industry manager for Southeast Asia, Australia and Japan. The Roche executives are flanked by Tony Zorrilla, founder-chair of Zorrilla, Zorrilla & Associates (ZZ&A), and the PR firm's managing partner, J. Cecil Barrameda.

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TAN YAN KEE FUND FOR DCEA

Celebrating the Tan Yan Kee Foundation's 15th anniversary, its directors and officers hand over a P7-million check to the Davao Central Educational Association (DCEA) to help in the construction of a new school building and auditorium in Davao City. Present during the turnover rites were Tan Yan Kee directors (from left) Shirley Chua, Carmen Tan, Mariano Tanenglian and P.O. Domingo (extreme right). Receiving the check on behalf of the school are current DCEA chair Delfin Go and former chair Giulbert Go (fourth and fifth from left). Represented by his wife Carmen, Tan Yan Kee chair Dr. Lucio C. Tan made the commitment to help DCEA during a recent visit to Davao.

Poll-watching on video

IN TIME for the forthcoming national, local and party-list elections, Media Expressions, Inc. recently released "Effective Pollwatching on Video," a 30-minute video presentation to inform and educate political party watchers, Namfrel and PPCRV volunteers and other Comelec official watchdogs on effective poll-watching.

The video contains actual election footage and dramatization of election-related scenes from balloting, voting, counting and appreciation of ballots and the preparation of election returns.

Also in the presentation are the different kinds of election cheating and how to counter them. Available on VCD and VHS format, the package also includes the "Pollwatcher's Kit and Handbook on Effective Pollwatching."

The video is from the book "Effective Pollwatching" by Lawyer Dante Roan Marcelo and written for video by Teddy Ramores. For inquiries call Ruby Ramores at 939-9031, cellphone numbers 0917-5411528 or 0917-5411531.

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PLAQUE OF RECOGNITION

Rodolfo T. Reyes, resident representative and managing director of Manila Economic and Cultural Offices (Meco) in Taiwan, and his counterpart Ambassador Chan Hsein-Ching of Taiwan Economic and Cultural Offices (Teco) were presented with awards of recognition for their "inexhaustible enthusiasm, positive spirit, indefatigable service, unselfish dedication and dynamic statesmanship" in the restoration of the air agreement and the rehiring of Filipino manpower. The award was presented by the San Juan Volunteers Group headed by engineer Wenceslao Vinzons Tan and assisted by Jose Lim III, general secretary and Napoleon Co. treasurer. The event was held at the historic Club Filipino.

3M INAUGURATES INNOVATION HALL

3M Philippines recently inaugurated its new Innovation Hall at its headquarters at the 21st floor of Equitable-PCI Bank Tower 2, Makati Avenue, Makati City. The Innovation Hall showcases the latest technological innovations of 3M in the industrial and automotive, electrical and telecommunications, health care and pharmaceuticals, traffic and personal safety, electronic and specialty materials, consumer as well as office and construction markets. Top end-user accounts, distributors and loyal business partners of 3M Philippines were invited to grace the occasion. Photo shows (from left) William Allen, area vice president for 3M Asia-Pacific; Sheila Maree Nichols, managing director for 3M Philippines and Mark Sinnard, regional MD for 3M South/Southeast Asia.

FREE HOSPITALIZATION FOR COPS

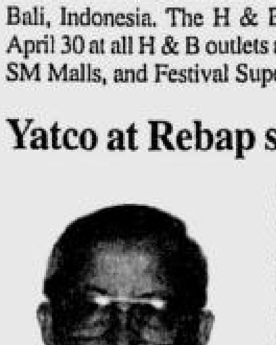
The Phil-Chinese Charitable Association (PCCA), owner and operator of the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center, recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine National Police (PNP) providing for free hospitalization of policemen wounded in the line of duty. The hospitalization benefit was given by the PCCA to support the PNP in fighting criminal elements. Shown from left is General Teodoro Peña, PNP-NCRPO regional director; PNP Chief General Leandro Mendoza; PCCA chair and president Dr. James G. Dy; and Felix Tong (PCCA).

BITS & Clips

H & B summer sale

ENJOY great discounts at Health & Beauty's Summer Sale on Toiletries ongoing until Monday, April 30. Enjoy discounts of up to 50 percent. Plus, any purchase of any Coppertone variant entitles one to a chance to win a three-day vacation for four to Bali, Indonesia. The H & B summer sale runs until April 30 at all H & B outlets at SM Department Stores, SM Malls, and Festival Supermall.

Yatco at Rebap seminar



YATCO

CESAR G. Yatco, former CEO of the Pag-Ibig Fund and national chair of Rebap, will discuss "Subdivisions, Condominiums and Townhouses" on Saturday, April 28 at the Rebap seminar at the Legaspi 200 penthouse located at Paseo de Roxas, Makati. Yatco is president/CEO of Yatco Brothers Development and Inland Property Brokers, real estate proprietors and subdivision managers. For particulars, call Arlene at Rebap-Makati at 894-4863.

Binangonan High homecoming

BINANGONAN Catholic High School Class 1968-69 will hold an alumni homecoming on May 1, 2001, 2 p.m. at the residence of Lina Cenidoza at Batingan, Binangonan, Rizal. For inquiries, call Dory at 6522575, Cora at 652-2461, Tessie at 825-3104 and Alice at 929-6352.

Sundays at Malacañang

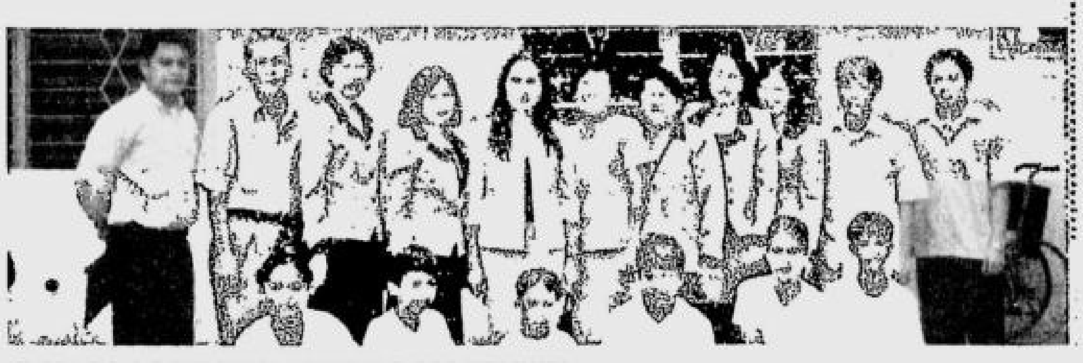
THE MALACAÑANG Park is once again alive with activities as it opens its doors to the public on a weekly event "Sundays at the Malacañang Gardens" on Sunday, April 29. The NCCA is organizing the event and its attached agencies like the National Library will be participating. Activities start 9 a.m.

CONCERT AND BALL FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

A concert and ball for civic programs and community service projects for the Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines and the Rotary Clubs of Metro Diliman and Manresa was presented recently by Millennium Promotion and Marketing Associates Co. at The Pearl Manila. Signing the agreement for the presentation were (seated, from left) Marc Andanar, Bella Dimayuga, Rolly Villaroman, Tessa Delfin, Beth Mirasol and Villa Granada de Guia. Standing, from left: Bong Regala, Che Lua, Rhett Pensacola and Babes Encarnacion.

NORTHWEST AIRLINES BLOODLETTING

Northwest Airlines' Club Red recently organized a bloodletting activity to support Medical City's Blood Bank program. The hospital's medical staff facilitated the screening and letting of 70 blood donors (some shown in photo) to assure the safety of their beneficiaries. After the activity, NWA Club members handed over tokens of appreciation to the said donors for their valuable contribution. Club Red was established by Northwest Airlines in 1994 to help uplift the lives of needy Filipinos. It is composed of executive secretaries and travel arrangers for the airline's corporate accounts.



QCMCC BANTAY KALUSUGAN CENTER

The Quezon City Medical Center and Colleges inaugurated recently its premier community outreach with the inauguration of the QCMCC Bantay Kalusugan Center. Located at the sprawling Aurora Boulevard (corner Anonas Street), Quezon City campus, the center caters to the medical needs of residents of District 3 at very affordable prices. Photo shows Arlyn Grace Guico (standing fifth from left), QCMCC president, together with the school officers and staff during the inauguration.

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Course	Start Date	End Date	Time
CREATIVE PRODUCER TRACK			
FUNDAMENTALS *Preparing for iNet Certification* *HTML* *Adobe Photoshop*	April 30, 2001	May 17, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
ENTRY *DHTML* *Macromedia Fireworks* *Macromedia Dreamweaver*	April 30, 2001 May 21, 2001	May 17, 2001 June 6, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm 8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
INTERMEDIATE *Macromedia Flash* *Macromedia Flash Advanced* *Macromedia Shockwave Director*	April 30, 2001 May 21, 2001	May 18, 2001 June 7, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm 8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
E-COMMERCE DEVELOPMENT TRACK (JAVA)			
FUNDAMENTALS *Preparing for iNet Certification* *Program Logic Formulation* *Building Web Document Using HTML*	April 30, 2001	May 16, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
ENTRY *Javascript Programming* *Java Programming for Beginners* *Migrating to Object-Oriented Programming with Java Technology*	April 30, 2001 May 21, 2001	May 30, 2001 June 20, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm 8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
INTERMEDIATE *Java Programming* *Object-Oriented Analysis and Design for Java Technology*	May 7, 2001 June 4, 2001	May 18, 2001 July 2, 2001	8:30 to 5:30 8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
E-COMMERCE DEVELOPMENT TRACK (MICROSOFT)			
FUNDAMENTALS *Preparing for iNet Certification* *Program Logic Formulation* *Building Web Document Using HTML*	April 30, 2001	May 16, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
ENTRY *Mastering MS VB 6.0 Fundamentals* *Mastering MS VB 6.0 Development* *Implementing Dbase Design on MS SQL Server 7.0*	May 21, 2001	July 2, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
NETWORKING TRACK			
FUNDAMENTALS *Introduction to Networking* *Introduction to LAN*	May 10, 2001	May 22, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
ENTRY *Introduction to WAN Architecture* *Introduction to TCP/IP Concepts and Practices*	May 28, 2001	June 8, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm

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BOJ paints bleak economic picture

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan on Thursday painted a gloomy economic picture of weak growth coupled with intensifying deflation, issuing a growth forecast that is far more pessimistic than that of the outgoing government.

But a 1.6-percent rise in retail sales in March from a year earlier provided a ray of hope for Prime Minister-in-waiting Junichiro Koizumi as he embarks on efforts to turn around the world's second-largest economy after a decade of stagnation.

The BOJ's half-yearly report showed that the central bank's nine-member Policy Board expects the economy to grow in a range of 0.3 percent to 0.8 percent in the current fiscal year, which started on April 1.

"In the first half of fiscal 2001, the global economic slowdown will probably continue to depress Japan's exports and production, and thus the economy is likely to remain sluggish as a whole," the BOJ said.

The range, which excludes the highest and lowest forecasts, is well below the government's growth target of 1.7 percent but is close to the median projection of 0.7 percent in a recent Reuters survey of 30 economists.

The forecasts of all nine board members ranged from growth of one percent to contraction of 0.1 percent.

Koizumi, who rode a groundswell of rank-and-file support to a stunning victory on Tuesday in the race to lead the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the dominant party in Japan's three-way ruling coalition, is set to be elected prime minister by parliament later in the day.

He has not yet named his Cabinet, but Japanese media have floated a number of candidates, among them the highly regarded current head of the financial services watchdog, Hakuo Yanagisawa.

The central bank said it would take time for Japan to exhibit a clear recovery, although it expects pressure from the slowdown in the global economy to ease in the second half of fiscal 2001.

In a bid to stamp out deflation, the BOJ adopted a radically different monetary policy last month, deciding to flood the banking system with excess reserves until core consumer prices, excluding fresh food, stabilize above zero.

The shift effectively reduced short-term interest rates to zero, and the BOJ's latest inflation forecasts strongly suggested the new policy will remain in force at least well into next year.

Excluding the highest and lowest forecasts, the Board expects core CPI to move in a range of minus 0.4 percent to minus 0.8 percent.

Many economists believe deflation is likely to persist in Japan for another two years, especially if Koizumi follows through his pledge to purge banks of their hefty bad loans, which would trigger a wave of bankruptcies.

"If inflation is going down this hard already, and bearing in mind they're going to be revising the structure of the consumer price index in a couple of months, this would suggest that CPI for 2001 is going to be negative probably by about one percent—maybe a bit more," said Richard Jerram, economist at ING Baring Securities.

"That would suggest it's very unlikely to go positive next year either, which means that we'll probably have zero rates until sometime in 2003 at the earliest," he added.

Japan's economy has been hard hit by weakness in the United States, its main export market, but the retail sales figures provided further evidence that consumption has been surprisingly resilient so far in 2001.

Reuters

Indonesia's ailing rupiah hits new lows at 12,300

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Indonesia's shaky currency hit fresh lows Thursday amid political uncertainty and fears that expected protests for and against beleaguered President Abdurrahman Wahid may turn violent.

The rupiah hit 12,300 against the dollar in early trading, its lowest since September 1998. Dealers said that without central bank intervention, the unit could dip as low as 12,500.

The slide came as thousands of Wahid supporters began to leave for Jakarta to demonstrate against parliamentary moves to oust the president.

On Monday, lawmakers are expected to censure Wahid for a second time over corruption allegations, paving the way for his impeachment within a few months.

The currency, which government planners once expected to stabilize at 7,000 against the dollar, has been sliding ever since the first censure was passed on Feb. 1.

The central bank has repeatedly been forced to spend millions of dollars in the market to prop it up.

The World Bank has warned that Indonesia's economy could collapse again if the political crisis worsens.

In 1998, the rupiah went into free fall amid an Asia-wide financial crisis, pushing the price of household staples way above what most Indonesians could afford. Massive social unrest followed, leading to the downfall of ex-dictator Suharto.

AP

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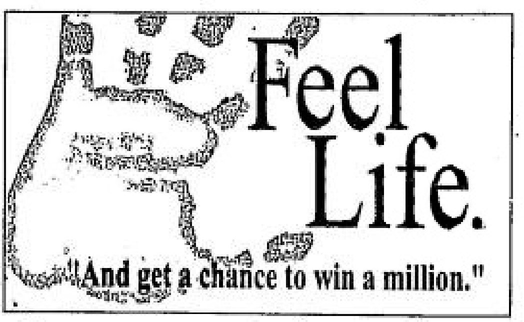
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Career women shed suits for jeans

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

RINA Lagdameo knew early on that her interests were different from her siblings. While they readily acceded to the request of their parents to help in the family corporation, she wanted to pursue her interests in communications and the creative arts.

After finishing her communications course at Fordham University in New York, Lagdameo came back and worked for several television stations before she got exposed to the advertising world through J.Walter Thompson where she worked as a broadcast producer.

She then moved to the Lopez group and worked for SkyCable and eventually with the Rockwell Land Corp. It was here when she entertained the idea of going her own

CAREER/ C7

Get sister firms to sell like family

By Christine A. Gaylican

POULTRY integrator and livestock feeds manufacturer Vitarich Corp. has one of the most widespread distribution networks but it was only recently that it took full advantage of its extensive network.

The integrated sales and marketing thrust of the different subsidiaries helped return the company to profit from a staggering loss at the height of the Asian currency crisis in 1997 and 1998.

"We have developed a marketing plan which bolsters our subsidiaries to sell the products of their sister companies," Escobar says.

Under this scheme, outlets of one subsidiary sell and market the products of other subsidiaries. These include Breeder Master Inc., Gromax Inc. and Philippines Favorite Chicken Inc.

The sales division of Breeder Master, which is the company's poultry integrator that sells one-day old chicks to poultry breeders, for instance, offers the feeds and other healthcare products of Gromax.

"The marketing and sales divisions of our subsidiaries are now coordinated and this marketing plan gave our earnings a boost in the last two years from almost three years of financial losses," claims Escobar.

Rehabilitation program

The revised marketing strategy forms part of Vitarich's rehabilitation program and restructuring of its P3.175-billion debt.

Vitarich Corp.'s poultry business, Philippines Favorite Chicken, which directly sells dressed chicken, has focused on the production and distribution of high margin products to key markets comprised of fast-food stores.

"We have concentrated on restaurants and institutional customers and achieved more stable and higher average prices and margins. What improved our productivity in this subsidiary is better feeds formulation that also reduced production costs by 4 percent," he says.

Some of the major customers of Vitarich include Jollibee Foods Corp., Shoemart Inc., MLM Foods (which holds the Goldilocks franchise), Andoks, Kenny Rogers Roasters, Don Henricos, Genosi, Chowking Foods Corp., Max's and Baliwag Chicken.

Vitarich has likewise taken steps to rebuild its feeds business.

Vitarich has recently entered into a strategic partnership with BOCM-Pauls Ltd., United Kingdom's leading animal feeds manufacturer.

Escobar says the tie-up with BOCM would enable the company to tap the UK partner's expertise in the manufacturing of hog feeds, an area where Vitarich plans to establish a strong presence.

The technical agreement was expected to jumpstart Vitarich's program to use new material for feeds and boost its position in the local industry.

BOCM tie-up

Escobar says the tie-up with BOCM saves Vitarich significant resources since it does not have to do its own research and development work.

BOCM Pauls is not only a market leader in compound feeds but is also one of the biggest pig raisers in the UK. It has a 30-year experience in practical pig farming with its Wymondham Mill producing 35,000 tons of starter and pre-starter feeds that can feed up to nine million pigs.

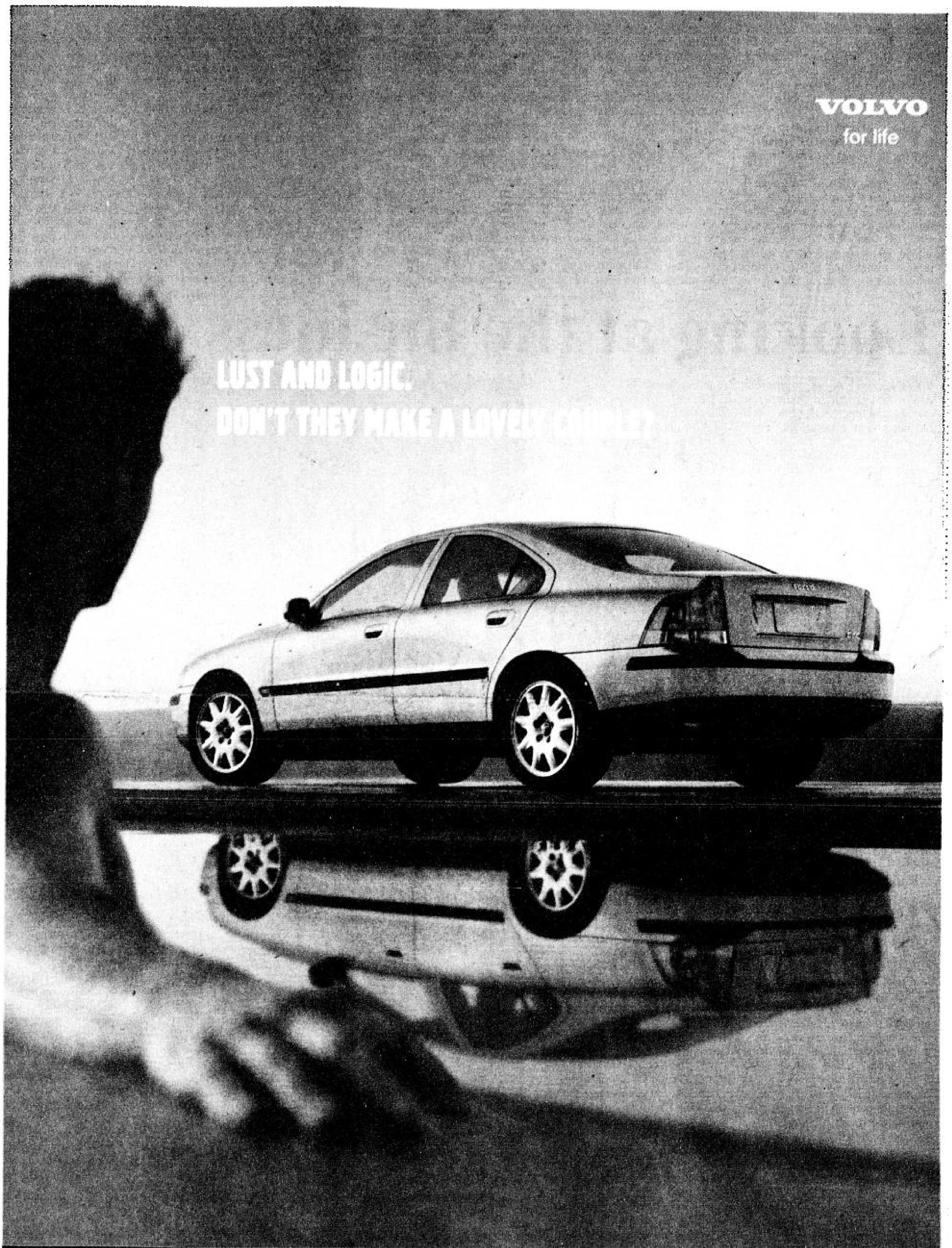
BOCM Pauls also exports pig starter diets and other specialist feed products.

Escobar attributes the integrated sales and marketing approach of the different Vitarich subsidiaries to the turnaround in 1999 from three years of heavy losses. It posted a net income of P84.6 million in 1999 compared to the previous year's loss of P396.3 million.

Unfortunately, Vitarich was not able to continue the trend last year as the sharp depreciation of the peso against the US dollar caused expenses to soar. It was, however, still able to post an income of P72 million.

Escobar says Vitarich will try yet again to reverse the trend by expanding its animal healthcare division.

Vitarich plans to add health vaccines, medicated feed premixes, supplemental premixes, disinfectants and nutritional supplements.



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Validity of tax assessments

By Patricia B. Bisda
SGV and Co.

TAX-FILES

"THE TAXPAYER shall be informed in writing of the law and the facts on which the assessment is made; otherwise, the assessment shall be void."

This was the decision handed down by the Court of Tax Appeals in Sunnyvale Development Corp. v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue, which was promulgated in Jan. 4. 2001.

The case involved deficiency income, donor's and withholding tax assessments amounting to P793,844.99 for fiscal year ended June 30, 1994. The alleged deficiency income tax assessment was caused by the disallowance of certain expenses.

Sunnyvale was said to have failed to withhold the one-percent contractor's tax on transportation equipment.

Sunnyvale filed its Protest and Supplemental Protest against the assessments and submitted the pertinent supporting documents with the BIR. Since the BIR commissioner failed to act on Sunnyvale's protest within the 180-day period provided for in Section 228 of the Tax Code, as amended, Sunnyvale filed a Petition for Review with the CTA.

One of the issues identified during the Pre-Trial Conference was whether or not the deficiency income, donor's and withholding tax assessments issued against Sunnyvale for fiscal year ended June 30, 1994 are void for failure to state the law and the facts on which the assessments were made.

The CTA ruled that the assessments were void due to Section 228 of the Tax Code, as amended.

The Court ruled: "It is evident from the records in this case, that the assessment notice issued by the Respondent against Petitioner for deficiency donor's tax did not indicate how the tax base of P3.206 million was arrived at and why it was being subjected to donor's tax.

The accompanying demand letter also failed to state the law and the facts on which the assessment was based. Hence, the same is void in accordance with Section 228 of the Tax Code, as amended."

The CTA also used the same reasoning when it ruled that the deficiency income and withholding tax assessments against Petitioner were also void.

The Courts said: "It bears stressing that not only the assessment for deficiency donor's tax was found to be void but the assessment for deficiency income and withholding taxes as well.

For the income tax assessment, the assessment notice did not indicate the reasons for disallowing the amounts of deductions pertaining to taxes and licenses, depreciation, association dues and miscellaneous expenses.

For the withholding tax assessment, the assessment notice did not indicate how the tax base of P817,912 was computed. The demand letters of the assessment notices did not state the law and the facts on which the assessments were made."

The same requirement was also prescribed for the issuance of a preliminary assessment notice as provided for in Section 3.1.2 of Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 12-99 (*Implementing the Provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 Governing the Rules on Assessment of National Internal Revenue Taxes, Civil Penalties and Interest and the Extrajudicial Settlement of a Taxpayer's Criminal Violation of the Code Through Payment of a Suggested Compromise Penalty*) which provides:

If after review and evaluation by the Assessment Division or by the Commissioner or his duly authorized representative, as the case may be, it is determined that there exists sufficient basis to assess the taxpayer for any deficiency tax or taxes, the said Office shall issue to the taxpayer, at least by registered mail, a Preliminary Assessment Notice (PAN) for the proposed assessment, showing in detail, the facts and the law, rules and regulations or jurisprudence on which the proposed assessment is based.
xxx xxx xxx."

The same RR, however, does not state that failure to state the facts and the law will render the PAN void as with the case of the formal assessment notice.

The rule prescribing that the assessment should state the law and facts on which the assessment is based was laid down for the first time in Section 228 of the Tax Code, as amended.

This condition was not provided for under Revenue Regulations No. 12-85 (*Procedure Governing Administrative Protests of Assessments of the Bureau of Internal Revenue*) dated Nov. 27, 1985. However, there was an implied requirement that assessments should be based on actual facts.

In Collector of Internal Revenue v. Alberto Benipayo, G. R. No. L-13656, Jan. 31, 1962, the Supreme Court ruled that, "An assessment fixes and determines the tax liability of a taxpayer. As soon as it is served, an obligation arises on the part of the taxpayer concerned to pay the amount assessed and demanded. Hence, assessments should not be based on mere presumptions no matter how reasonable or logical said presumptions may be.
xxx xxx xxx

In order to stand the test of judicial scrutiny, the assessment must be based on actual facts.
xxx xxx xxx."

It should be pointed out that there is a corresponding requirement on the part of the taxpayer to state the facts and the law on which the Protest is based, otherwise, such Protest shall be considered as "void and without force and effect." Section 3.1.5 of Revenue Regulations No. 12-99 provides:
"xxx xxx xxx

The taxpayer shall state the facts, the applicable law, rules and regulations, or jurisprudence on which his protest is based, otherwise, his protest shall be considered void and without force and effect. If there are several issues involved in the disputed assessment and the taxpayer fails to state the facts, the applicable law, rules and regulations or jurisprudence in support of his protest against some of the several issues on which the assessment is based, the same shall be considered undisputed issue or issues in which case, the taxpayer shall be required to pay the corresponding deficiency tax or taxes attributable thereto."

The requirement that the taxpayer should state the facts and the law on which the Protest is based was carried over from Section 6 of Revenue Regulations No. 12-85 which provides:

"SEC. 6. Protest.—The taxpayer may protest administratively an assessment by filing a written request for reconsideration or reinvestigation specifying the following particulars:
xxx xxx xxx

(h) A statement of facts and/or law in support of the protest.
xxx xxx xxx"

However, under then Revenue Regulations No. 12-85, the Protest will not be considered as "void and without force and effect" if the taxpayer fails to state the facts and/or the law in support of its Protest.

(The author is a senior associate of SGV & Co.)

Looking at the business of saving lives

SAVING lives is one tough job. And with the increasing number of doctors and medical institutions, it has become an even tougher business.

About five years ago, a group of medical professionals led by Dr. Virgilio Basilio identified a niche that had yet to be tapped in the health care market—a swift and reliable emergency response bureau.

Although these doctors were more conversant with sphygmomanometers than balance sheets, their humble endeavor, Lifeline Arrows, has grown into a modest, full-fledged, multimillion-peso venture in only five-years.

Its success may be traced to two factors—increasing number of accidents and the phenomenon of the working household.

"Studies show that in the US, there is one accident happening every five seconds. You can expect that it is almost the same in the Philippines. Maybe there's one here about every 15 seconds. Another thing is that there are so many homes today where everyone goes to work and only the old people are left at home," says Lifeline president and chief executive officer Michael Deakin.

Raising the medical bar

Lifeline Arrows' three core products. First, responding to medical emergencies with an ambulance and a staff of emergency medical technicians (EMTs); second, expediting inter-facility transfers; and last, post hospital care.

Among all these services, Lifeline Arrows is most known for its brightly painted ambulances with sirens urgently blaring away at the traffic en route, quite unfortunately, to yet another emergency.

"We have re-defined what is called an ambulance. For many years, the public has been used to ambulances which are a van with a bed and a seatbelt. Technically, that is not an ambulance but a transport vehicle. The ambulances of Lifeline Arrows are mobile ICUs (intensive care units) complete with all the necessary equipment for dealing with an emergency," explains Deakin.

With such prized ambulances, in the truest sense, Lifeline is able to offer forward integrated services such as transferring a patient from one hospital to another; and visiting home-care patients for X-rays, blood tests, and other health monitoring procedures.

Raising the medical bar, of course, comes at a hefty price. A brand new ambulance like the ones used by Lifeline can cost anything from P1.5 million to P2 million—roughly equivalent to a top-of-the-line luxury sedan.

Outsmarting pranksters

Ask any marketing practitioner and they'd tell you that a little publicity can never be a bad thing. In reality, however, it sometimes can.

"Crank calls are a part of our business. When our 16-911 number gets featured in media, you can expect that there will be a lot of calls immediately after that," reports medical director Dr. Donna de Padua, an emergency physician for more than 10 years.

This is why Lifeline has implemented a series of questions, similar to those used by 911 in the US, to screen crank calls.

"Pranksters must realize that what they are doing is not funny. I think we must communicate to these pranksters the gravity of what they are doing. When we respond to a crank call, the prankster is taking away people and resources that are needed to respond to real emergencies," stresses Deakin.

When one out of Lifeline's eight ambulances responds to emergencies, it carries a standard team composed of one male and one female nurse plus a driver. In extreme cases, an advance team is sent on motorbikes to stabilize the patient before the ambulance arrives.

Crank calls or no crank calls, Lifeline has set its sights on more aggressive media presence over the next year or so. And rightly so. Lifeline is essentially a lifestyle product. In order to succeed in the market, a lifestyle product must not only be known to a wide market base but must become inextricably intertwined with the daily consciousness of that market. Word of mouth might take too long to spread, and as such, mass media is the answer.

Doctors and bad math?

It is a joke that could very well date as far back as the days of Hippocrates. The two prerequisites to being a doctor are poor handwriting and bad math.

The core product-price proposition of Lifeline is that members are entitled to basic medical consultation by phone and unlimited use of ambulances in case of emergency for an annual subscription fee of P700. The company also responds to calls of non-subscribers who are charged a few thousand pesos to cover fixed costs and consumables afterward.

"In the US, 911 charges about $100-$200 for responding. Of course they never actually show in the 911 TV series that there is money changing hands. Our rates are at par, or even way below the world standard," reveals Deakin.

The subscription fees of some 40,000 Lifeline members in Metro Manila go toward maintaining a staff of 35 emergency personnel working in three-hour shifts, 11 drivers, and a back office run by 20 people.

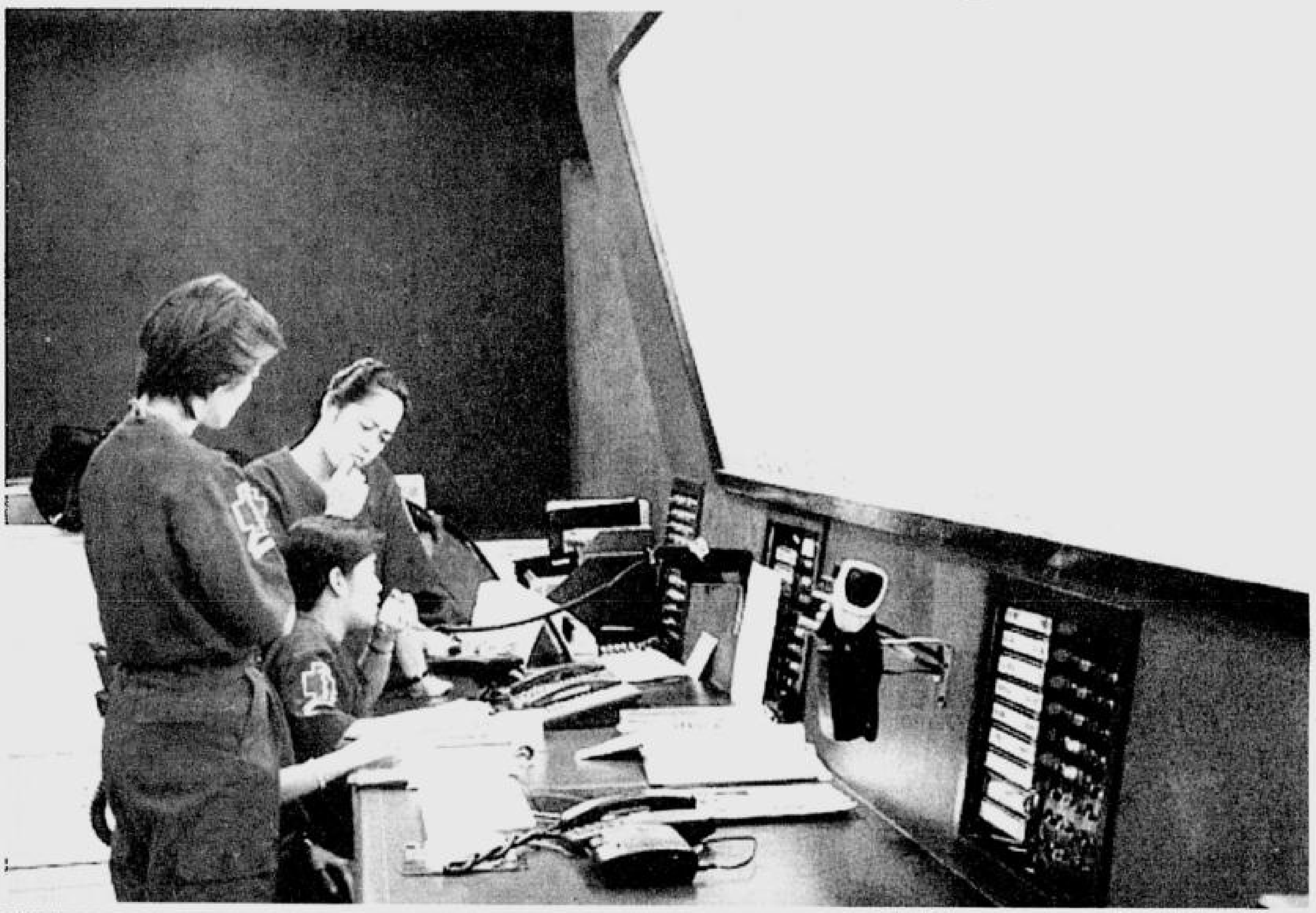
Despite the innovative nature of its product, the key to Lifeline's survival in the marketplace rests on the time-tested marketing objective of giving the target market an attractive value proposition—a high standard of service, at a price that is perceived to be reasonable, if not a bargain.

When the US-based 911 came to Philippines, Lifeline sent five of its nurses for training. In fact, 911 was so impressed with Lifeline's "red room" and emergency team which is composed of nurses.

The red room is a call-center facility that accepts emergency calls, constantly monitors the exact location of Lifeline ambulances, and traffic bottlenecks which are then noted onto a comprehensive, backlit map of Metro Manila.

A highly coordinated red-room allows Lifeline to "touchdown"—reach an emergency—in 20 minutes on average. Fast, even when compared to the world standards that fluctuate in between 15 to 30 minutes.

"The frontline of emergency services abroad is composed mostly of paramedics. Paramedics become paramedics by attending a series of courses. Nurses, on the other hand, have to pass a board exam which screens for a much higher standard. No one else in the world has so many nurses because of prohibitive costs," says De Padua.



THE "RED ROOM" is where all Lifeline 16-911 calls are received. It is a comprehensive call center manned round-the-clock. Lifeline staff dispatches ambulances, monitors the location of ambulances on the road and takes note of traffic bottlenecks.

PRESIDENT and chief executive officer Michael Deakin (fourth from left); vice president and chief operating officer Annabellee Singson; and medical director Dr. Donna de Padua are the core team overseeing the day-to-day operations of Lifeline Arrows.

A five-year-old business, Lifeline has not increased its P700 package for the past four years. This could be the single most influential determinant why the firm enjoys a renewal rate of 95 percent.

"We believe that P700 is affordable across our target market. Saying that an emergency will never happen to me is like playing Russian roulette. Some people pay the same amount or more to subscribe to a car towing service. Why not spend the same amount to have themselves 'towed' to the hospital," says Annabellee Singson, Lifeline vice president and chief operating officer.

Just like fast most moving consumer goods, buying the service in bulk provides economies-of-scale. A family of four can get coverage for P2,000 annually. During co-branding tie-ups with banks and credit cards, the fee can go as low as P340 with an option for automatic renewal at the end of the coverage year.

Medical customer is not always right

An old adage has it that the customer is always right. In the case of Lifeline, this would be a wrong tenet to apply.

"The governing principle in emergency service should be that it is the patient, and not us doctors, who dictates what is an emergency. Because of this philosophy, utilization (of our services) is high," De Padua bares.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to accurately gauge a situation entirely based on a phone call. Whenever calls fall within the gray area that distinguishes emergencies from petty mishaps, it is the policy of Lifeline to exercise utmost prudence and respond.

"If the patient is hysterical, a stubbed toe can sound like it's a life threatening situation. On the other hand, someone with a serious heart problem who doesn't want to go to the hospital may make it sound like a minor dizzy spell," she explains.

Dealing with hard-headed patients in severe cases is the only instance when a doctor's decision overrides the patient's. Early this year, Lifeline responded to a call from a condominium just a few buildings away from their headquarters along Annapolis. The female patient was having a major allergic attack but refused to be taken to the hospital until Lifeline nurses managed to cajole her into their ambulance and wheeled her into the emergency room of the nearest hospital.

Only then did the value of all the cajoling become evident. Emergency room doctors said if the patient had arrived 10 minutes later, she would most probably have not left the hospital alive.

Marketing for doctors

Expanding outwards of their usual clientele composed of subscribing individuals and hospitals outsourcing an emergency service, Lifeline has moved into property coverage—making their emergency services available not only on a per person but also on a per site basis.

The site coverage proposition opens up a whole new horizon of clients ranging from hotels, commercial establishments such as malls and restaurants, factories and schools. Under this arrangement, a yearly fee is computed based on the regular people traffic experienced by a particular establishment.

Coverage of a restaurant, for example, is computed based on the number of seats plus the number of employees. The fee for hotels may be determined by the total number of beds taking into consideration the average occupancy rate.

La Salle Zobel is one of the first to sign up on this type of institutional arrangement.

The same computations apply when Lifeline offers emergency coverage for events such as movies, boxing matches, the CCP-run of Ms Saigon, the PBA and motor races.

Another area of growth being explored by Lifeline is in the public welfare sector. Lifeline has coordinated with the Public Estates Authority for coverage of cars travelling along the Coastal Road. The fee, which is factored into the toll, comes up to be 5-7 centavos per car. Negotiations are currently underway to make this the model for all tollways.

But perhaps the most important role of Lifeline marketing campaigns is shifting the public's perception of ambulances.

"Ten years ago, I would ride in an ambulance and we'd blare down at cars and nobody would move. Now, the traffic is cooperative. There has been a change in the mindset and perception. Our ambulances are viewed as legitimate so people give way," observes De Padua.

In the final analysis, the business of saving lives is less about business and more about lives. By being ever-present in the public's consciousness, Lifeline increases its chances of giving more people a new lease on life. And that, is priceless.

In advertising, it pays to dodge the shotgun approach

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

MARKETING STRATEGY

FOR Zest-O Corp., the approach to advertising is definitely not via the "shotgun" approach.

"If you use the shotgun approach, you will miss a lot of the needs of your target market. Our approach is seasonal advertising. We choose the time to advertise, " says Zest-O marketing manager Francisco Cada.

The shotgun approach refers primarily to TV advertising where ads are placed to hit the most number of people in the hope that the target audience will also be watching.

This is opposed to the current trend of niche advertising where specific markets are identified and a medium which caters to that market is used.

"You have to advertise properly," Cada adds.

Zest-O, makers of the juice drinks in doy packs, entered the market in May 1981 when the dominant ready-to-drink juices were in brick packs.

A group of seven individuals formed the organization with the aim of getting the Zest-O juice drink to compete with the best of them.

The first recorded sales amounted to a gross of P12million on its first six months of operations.

In 1982, with an organization of 19, it achieved gross sales of P25 million while moving its way in the competitive market.

Through the years, Zest-O Corp. has diversified to market several products. Its gross sales in 1987 reached P280 million and after almost seven years in the industry, Zest-O Corp. transformed itself into a multimillion-peso corporation. It now employs 600 personnel.

Through hard work and persistence, Cada says Zest-O was able to capture 80 percent of the ready-to-drink juice market.

For Cada, the key to success is to know where the consumers are.

"We are faced with giants and it's hard to survive the competition. We have to be responsible and be closer to the customers," Cada explains.

"While multinational firms spend more on advertising, we go to the consumers. We go to the point of sales (POS)," the marketing head adds.

These outlets include *sari-sari* stores, schools, groceries and supermarkets.

Beyond advertising, however, Zest-O can trace part of its success to its distribution system.

"We do not leave the business to distributors. We handle it ourselves," Cada says.

He explains that "our salesmen go to the stores daily. We carry everything, all our products. If you work with distributors, you will see they only carry certain brands."

Many firms have subcontracted the distribution of their products where the distributors get a cut in the sales of the goods. The disadvantage of this system, however, is that the distributors become choosy. They opt to carry only the goods that sell well.

With Zest-O's scheme, their outlets carry all their products creating awareness and eventually sales.

As the firm ventured in various product lines, the distribution channels were addressed to keep it competitive.

Zest-O maintains 15 warehouses across the Philippines. It maintains one central warehouse in the Greater Manila Area, five in Luzon and eight in the Visayas and Mindanao areas.

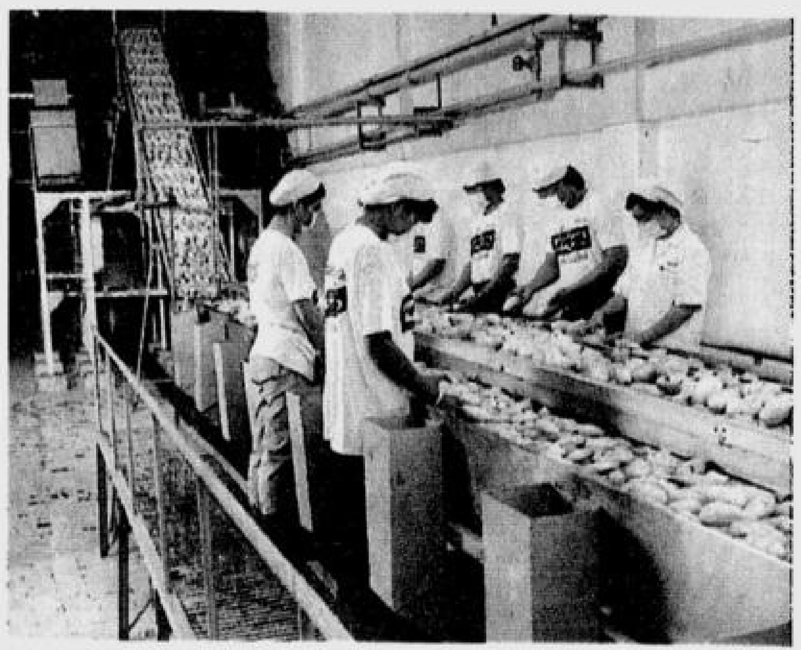
When introducing a new product, Cada says the firm goes directly to the consumers and conducts tests.

"The consumer experience is to let them try it. There must be a personal encounter of consumer and product," he says.

Zest-O is largely known as a ready-to-drink juice maker. Its owners however have expanded and created a large consumer product company.

A few years ago it entered the soft drinks market with a cola and an orange soda drink. Its aim is to be a total beverage maker. Included in this is the development of health

IN ADVERTISING/ C8



INSTEAD of using imported materials, Zest-O opted to tap local fruits for some of their drinks.

Ads go small—target back of fortune cookies

NEW YORK—What would Confucius say?

Just when it seems there's no surface left that advertisers haven't commandeered, an Internet firm has baked up a new recipe for self-promotion: tiny ads tucked inside fortune cookies.

The ads, for website Half.com, began showing up in early April on slips of paper folded into millions of cookies doled out to diners at Chinese restaurants nationwide.

The cookies, made by Wonton Food Inc. of New York, still tender the tidbits of wisdom Americans have long savored with their General Tso's Chicken and fried rice. But while the front of that slip of paper may tell you happiness and a long life are yours, the back offers $5 off your next purchase at the website.

"We really want to connect with people and evoke an emotional response," said Mark Hughes, vice president of marketing for Half.com, based in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania. "People are inundated . . . with all this stuff, with branding and with logos. At least what we're trying to do is bring a smile to people's faces."

Wonton Food is baking the ads, reading "save a Fortune at Half.com," into 17 to 20 million of the 60 million Golden Bowl brand fortune cookies it makes each month at its plant in Queens, New York, said Richard Leung, the company's vice president of sales and marketing.

The company, which bills itself as the largest fortune cookie manufacturer on the East Coast, has filled orders in the past for promotional cookies for corporate customers. But it was up to the customers to hand out those cookies. This is the first time Wonton Foods is baking ads into the cookies it ships to restaurant supply distributors.

"If you go to a restaurant, everybody opens up the fortune cookie and the first thing, even before they eat the cookie, they read the message," Leung said. "That's how you get your message across."

The proof of that point may be the response to the first Half.com cookies, whose fortunes bear the slogan "Free $5."

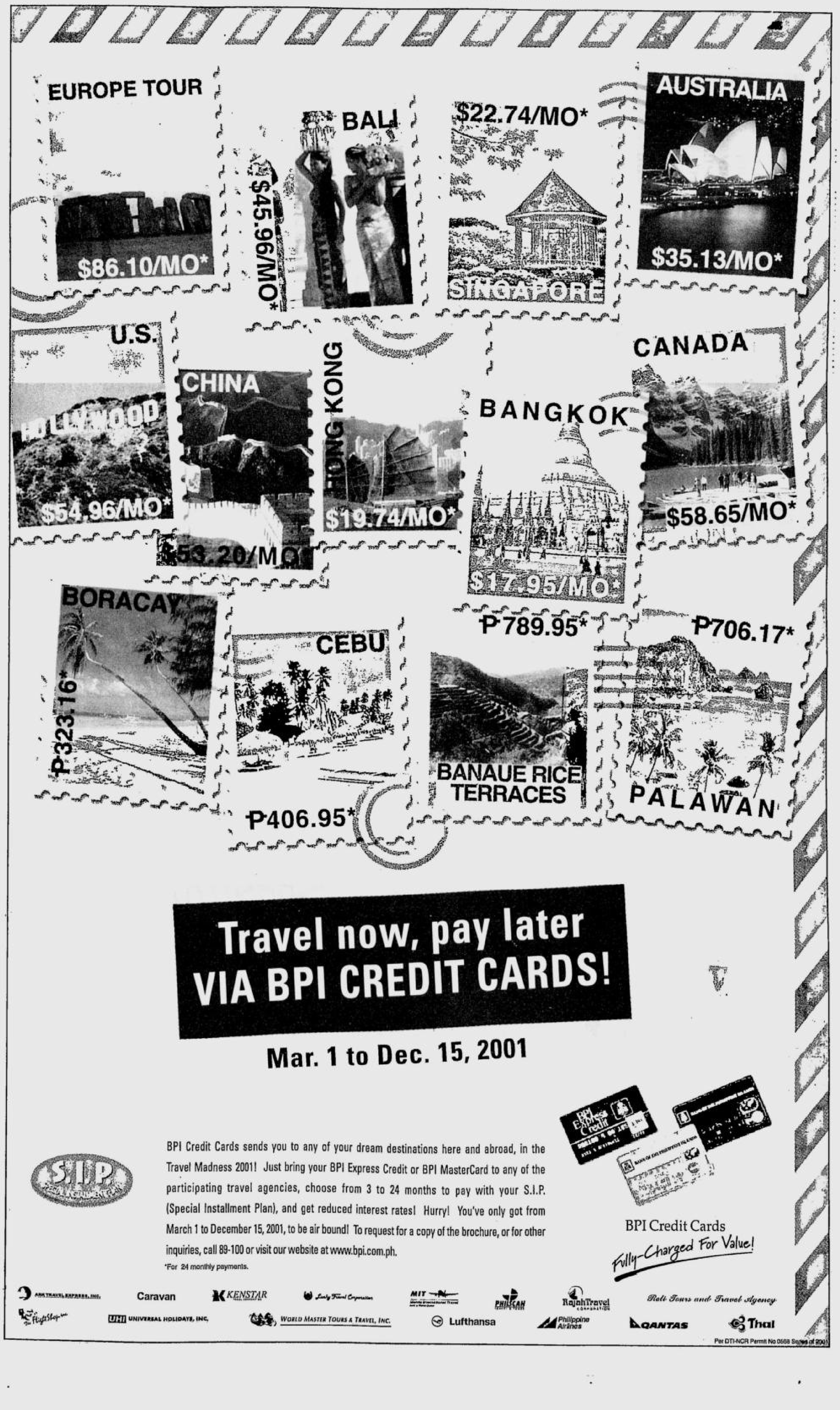
Some recipients believe they've just won $5 off their dinner check, which has created some awkward situations for restaurants and distributors, Leung said. His company and Half.com have agreed to revise the text to make its intent more clear.

Maybe fortune cookie advertising isn't so far-fetched in an age when just about any space—even public restroom urinals—is considered apt territory for commercial promotion.

But Hughes said his company's ads emphasize fun and innovation over shock value.

It isn't the first novel promotional ploy tried by Half.com, which is owned by online auctioneer eBay Inc. Before it was launched last year, the site convinced civic leaders in Halfway, Oregon, to change the city's name to Half.com for a year. Last fall, site executives put ads on thousands of bags of roasted nuts sold by sidewalk vendors in New York.

The slogan: "Why pay full price when you can get it for peanuts at Half.com?" *AP*



Travel now, pay later VIA BPI CREDIT CARDS!

Mar. 1 to Dec. 15, 2001

BPI Credit Cards sends you to any of your dream destinations here and abroad, in the Travel Madness 2001! Just bring your BPI Express Credit or BPI MasterCard to any of the participating travel agencies, choose from 3 to 24 months to pay with your S.I.P. (Special Installment Plan), and get reduced interest rates! Hurry! You've only got from March 1 to December 15, 2001, to be air bound! To request for a copy of the brochure, or for other inquiries, call 89-100 or visit our website at www.bpi.com.ph.

*For 24 monthly payments.

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Fully-Charged For Value!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0568 Series of 2001

Turning 5 and Growing Stronger...

MOLDEX (MRMI) Realty Marketing, Inc.

Metro Gate
ESTATES & VILLAS

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

Allow me to convey my warmest felicitations to Moldex Realty Marketing, Inc. (MRMI) on its Fifth Year Anniversary.

For years, your company has been one of the most stable real estate marketing organizations in the country. By continually providing adequate housing for our people, you are our government's valuable partner in revitalizing our economy and providing more opportunities for our people. I hope this event with the theme, "MRMI: Turning Five and Growing Stronger", will be successful in furthering the growth of the local realty industry, expanding trade linkages and promoting a more dynamic business environment in this era of modernization and global competition.

The continued growth of our country's real estate industry largely depends on a stable economy and an effective national housing and infrastructure program. I trust that MRMI will continue to complement our government's efforts in bolstering foreign and local investments, and promote the Philippines as a strategic investment capital in the Asia-Pacific region. I urge our country's real estate developers, salesmen,brokers,appraisers and consultants to be our government's partner in rebuilding this nation towards greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

MOLDEX GROUP OF COMPANIES
MESSAGE

Congratulations to the executives, officers and staff of Moldex Realty Marketing, Inc. for five successful years of marketing endeavors. MRMI has played a very significant role in reaching out to Filipinos with the different projects it offers. As a major player in the real estate business, it has contributed in uplifting the Filipino lifestyle through its efforts of promoting the Metrogate and Heritage subdivisions and estates. With quality facilities and amenities found in every Moldex project, the Filipino family is thus given the option to live in a happy and healthy environment. More than 15,000 families have taken this option and with the dedication of MRMI, more will follow in the years to come.

Time and again, the company has shown its perseverance and positive outlook on the industry and it has paid off very well. Today, I am proud to say that the company has established itself as a formidable group armed with its ideals and fired by its vision

I wish you more success in your undertakings.

JACINTO T. UY
Chairman

MOLDEX REALTY MARKETING, INC
MESSAGE

Warm greetings from Moldex Realty Marketing, Inc

On our fifth anniversary, I believe that there is enough reason to celebrate as we reach a significant milestone in our corporate history . Within the five years that MRMI has existed as a marketing company, we have proven our strength and resilience in the face of new challenges Via the projects that we have handled, we have reached out to the public and introduced lifestyles that they deserve We hope that we have substantially contributed to national progress by promoting the Moldex projects and thus introducing better living options for the Filipino family

This is the proper time to look back at what we have accomplished and what remains to be done To see where we are now and determine the path to take The past years have been challenging ones for the real estate industry but we know that we have hurdled this Now we reap the fruits of our efforts knowing that we have been enriched with wisdom and strength to be able to realize our vision.

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the many people who have been part of our continuing success The dynamism and determination of our sales force The professionalism of our business associates and the trust that they have given us The optimism, commitment and dedication of the MRMI organization And the confidence bestowed on us by the Moldex Group of Companies especially our Chairman of the Board, Mr Jacinto T Uy Most of all, we draw our strength from the many satisfied clients that we have made within those five years Indeed, we continue to grow because of the strong foundation of trust that we have built with them

We shall look forward to more years of serving the Filipino via our projects and programs and continue to become a significant player in the government's vision of a home for every Filipino

Thank you for all the support!

EDITHA L. MANANSALA
President

HUDCC
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to greet the Moldex Realty Marketing, Inc (MRMI) on the occasion of its Fifth Year of Incorporation on 30 April 2001.

The auspicious history of the MRMI reflects that with the tradition of industry, perseverance, information, expertise, and the clarity of vision of a true pioneer, a business venture is indeed, destined to prosper.

The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council shares this joyous occasion with you along with fervent hopes of future triumphs for Moldex Realty Marketing Inc.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

SEC. MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Chairman

MOLDEX REALTY MARKETING INC. -TURNING FIVE AND GROWING STRONGER

"We have a place for every dream", "There is Gold in Our Land". For Moldex Realty Marketing, Inc., its print ad slogans are not empty words. It would not have gone this far if any question to its claims is raised. The company was formed amid a real estate boom thus plunging itself into a sea of serious competitors, but this did not keep them from forming a new Moldex firm. On April 30, 1996, Moldex Realty Marketing, Inc. was formally incorporated. Without much fanfare, it made its mark by successfully marketing a number of residential projects. Proof that MRMI was more than ready to market all kinds of realty projects.

The company is currently marketing twenty subdivisions in various stages of development. As the exclusive marketing arm of developer Moldex Realty, Inc. it has lent a hand in introducing the Heritage and Metrogate series of subdivisions located in Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga, Antipolo and Quezon City. In the span of five years , Moldex , as a realty marketing company has grown to become a major player in the real estate industry. Sound financial planning and flexibility enabled it to weather the economic difficulties of the past years.

What sets Moldex Realty Marketing , Inc. apart is perhaps the people that make it up. The company is steered by an indefatigable president whose fast-paced workstyle has led the company to move dynamically. Certainly not an armchair executive, Ms. Manansala makes it a point to play an active part in any project or activity. She is known to keep everybody on their toes and has the knack of bringing out all the potentials of each employee." I believe in instilling proper company values to all the employees. For a company to work as one, each individual has to know the company goal and his own role to play in achieving it," says Ms. Editha L. Manansala. Every week on Monday morning activities, these goals and objectives are reiterated so that the group can stay focused.

" I would attribute the company's strength to its innovativeness and flexibility," she says. People-based and progressive in thinking, MRMI thrives on new ideas and concepts. Old marketing ideas are debunked or enhanced to adjust to growing needs and advancing technology. To MRMI "I want something new" is not a slogan; it is a working principle.

MRMI continues to create a competitive atmosphere among its various sales networks that are composed of in-house groups and brokers. More than 85% of this sales force has stayed with the company for five years- a loyalty that has been earned through mutual respect and delivery of commitments and also because of the full support that they get from the MRMI management. Early this quarter, MRMI launched its Grand Promo Bonanza making it possible for salespeople to win office showcases, travel packages and vehicles. This is on top of the quarterly and monthly incentives that they get.

Given the numerous realty companies in the Philippines, a lot of marketing professionals chose to be affiliated with Moldex for the following reasons; the company offers a rare combination of unlimited income opportunities and professional growth for its sales network. Moldex has built a strong foundation of trust with its clients by promptly delivering what it has committed. In a volatile economy especially in the real estate industry, investors and buyers need constant assurance that they get what they pay for. With more than twenty projects to its name, Moldex has built a level of credibility and integrity that makes the company one of the major players in the industry. The company has a lot of inventories that cater to a wide spectrum of the market, from house and lot packages to townhouses, middle income subdivisions, triple A projects, memorial gardens and its

MOLDEX GROUP OF COMPANIES
MESSAGE

Congratulations to Moldex Realty Marketing, Inc. on its fifth year of incorporation. Established to perform an important role for the Moldex Group of Companies, I am happy that MRMI has quickly succeeded in playing its part for fulfilling our vision of reaching out to Filipino families through our various quality projects.

Now at five years and growing bigger and stronger, we should all continue holding on to that vision adhering at all times to the highest tenets of real estate professionalism.

Again, my warmest greetings and felicitations to the officers and staff that make up Moldex Realty Marketing, Inc.

ROY JOSEPH Z. VINUYA
President

Heritage
HOMES

MOLDEX REALTY INC.
MESSAGE

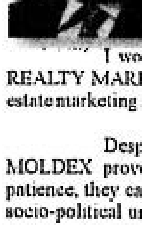
My warmest greetings and congratulations to Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. on its fifth anniversary!

-Moldex Realty, Inc. is indeed fortunate to have MRMI as a partner in its various development projects. Being our exclusive marketing agent, MRMI has, over the past five years, contributed tremendously to the continuous growth of Moldex Realty, Inc. through its aggressive and relentless promotion and marketing of our products. MRMI's innovative selling strategies--designed to enhance the market position of Moldex especially during these past years of crisis--made possible its excellent sales performance.

I warmly congratulate all the officers and staff of MRMI, whose professionalism,dynamism and remarkable dedication have made MRMI a success story through the years. We shall continue to be proud and confident of our partnership with MRMI in bringing our well-planned communities to the public and in contributing to the enhancement of the Filipino way of life and the economic progress of the country.

More power to MRMI. God bless you always!

REY IGNACIO M. DIAZ
President



CREBA INC.
Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc.
MESSAGE

I would like to convey my warmest congratulations to MOLDEX REALTY MARKETING, INC. on its fifth year of continuous delivery of real estate marketing services to the Filipino people.

Despite the tough times, the outstanding men and women of MOLDEX proved that with sheer dedication, perseverance, hard work and patience, they can buck all the odds brought about by the economic crisis and socio-political uncertainties which hit the country for the past years. It is with admiration and pride that I congratulate the dynamic men and women of MOLDEX in their sincere desire to continuously serve the Filipino families in fulfilling their dreams for a home and hence, enhance their lives and dignity.

MOLDEX has been a source of constant pride to CREBA and I would like to pay tribute to the leadership of Ms. Editha L. Manansala and her workforce who exemplify this high MOLDEX standard.

There will be more formidable tasks ahead, but I am confident you will rise to the challenge and even inspire your colleagues in the entire Philippine real estate industry in achieving their goals and reap the rewards of their chosen career. Once again, I would like to congratulate the men and women of MOLDEX and wish everyone continued prosperity and success.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!!!

CHARLIE V. GORAYEB
National President

SHDA
SUBDIVISION AND HOUSING DEVELOPERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
MESSAGE

My warmest greetings and best wishes to Moldex Realty Marketing, Inc. as it celebrates its fifth year of incorporation. As an active member of the Subdivision and Housing Developers' Association, Inc. (SHDA), the Moldex Family has contributed to the growth of the association as the partner of the government in providing decent and affordable shelter and in seeking solutions to the country's concern of homelessness.

SHDA is proud to count among its ranks the most progressive, responsible and prime mover in the housing sector. Armed with a sense of duty and commitment, SHDA reaffirms its full support to the attainment of the government's housing program and together with its members and partners like the Moldex Realty Marketing,Inc. SHDA moves ahead with renewed optimism to greater challenges and opportunities.

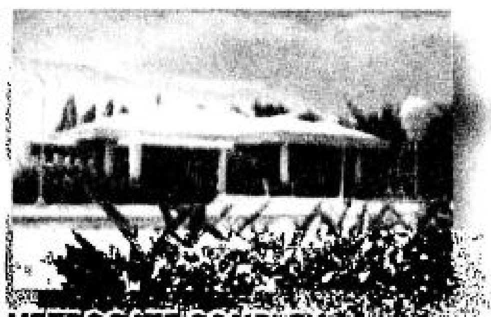
Congratulations and more power and success in all your undertakings.

MARIANO D. MARTINEZ, JR.
National President

METROGATE ANGELES

HERITAGE HOMES MEYCAUAYAN

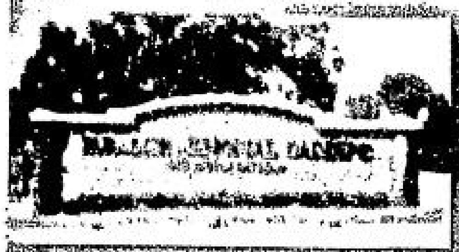
METROGATE MEYCAUAYAN II


METROGATE COMPLEX

HERITAGE HOMES
SAN JOSE

METROVILLA CENTRE

METROVIEW RIDGE ESTATES


PARADISE MEMORIAL GARDENS
OUR LADY OF MANAOAG

METROGATE SAN JOSE

THERE'S A PLACE FOR EVERY DREAM

When you think of having a home...

You dream of the best locations,
of comfort and convenience, of
peace and security.

You dream of a quiet community,
of getting superior value from
your life's investment.

FULFILL YOUR DREAMS WITH MOLDEX

Master-planned communities in every prime location. Superior quality developments with exclusive facilities and amenities.

MAKE YOUR CHOICE AND START LIVING YOUR DREAM.

MOLDEX REALTY INC.
DEVELOPER

EXCLUSIVE MARKETING NETWORK:

MOLDEX
Realty Marketing, Inc.

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Telefax : 551-0808

No. 6 Ligaya St., cor. West Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone No.: 373-8888 • Telefax 373 - 8888 loc. 288

METROGATE INDANG

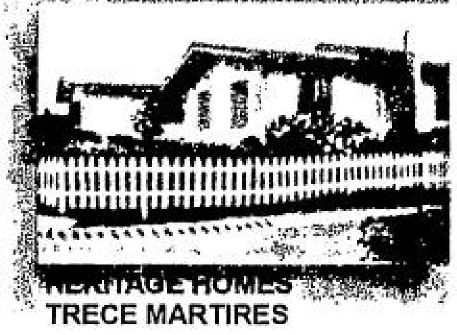
METR[illegible]STATES

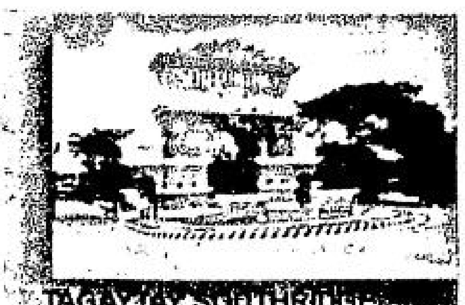
METROGATE DASMARINAS
ESTATES

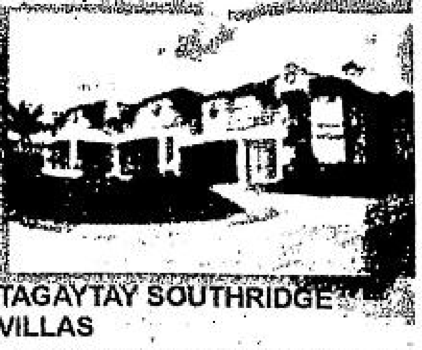
METROGATE TAGAYTAY
ESTATES

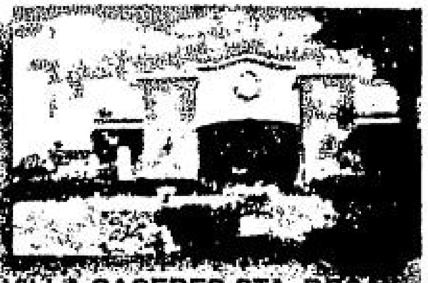
METROGATE STA. ROSA

METROGATE TRECE MARTIRES


HERITAGE HOMES
TRECE MARTIRES


TAGAYTAY SOUTHRIDGE
ESTATES


TAGAYTAY SOUTHRIDGE
VILLAS


VILLA CACERES STA. ROSA

METROGATE DAS[illegible]

flagship project - 1322 Roxas Boulevard , a luxury residential condominium located along Roxas Boulevard. Add to this is its roster of rawland inventories in other strategic areas in Luzon that are waiting for the right time to be developed. Proposals from investors have been received for joint venture projects thus increasing the networks' income opportunities and increasing the choices of their clients.

MRMI maintains efficient services both to the network members and the customers before and after sales. One of its effective programs is the Moldex Buyer Plus which has attracted buyers through competitive pricing, flexible payment terms, tie-ups with reputable banks and builders. Another buyer-friendly program is its Perfect Home Service Package for new buyers which helps them in shopping for their household needs. "We focused our vision on the customer,the public, always thinking that the home is the foundation of a decent life" says Manansala.

For its sales network members, the company provides the necessary weapons to effectively market its projects such as the required training and orientations to enhance the network's selling skills, attractive sales materials that are given for free and available vehicles for use during their activities. Apart from this, they receive competitive commission rates, attractive regular and special incentives, cash advances and proper recognition for jobs well done.

Even though the company has a formal organization, it operates with a personal touch, from its rank and file employees to its highest ranking officers, buyers and sales agents are treated with warm accommodation like they are all part of a big family.

The future looms bright for Moldex Realty Marketing, Inc. Always seeing the proverbial glass as half-full and guided by its principles, Moldex continues to make the right moves. Five years and still growing. This company must be doing something right.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVES & KEY PERSONNEL OF MOLDEX REALTY MARKETING, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Jacinto T. Uy
Chairman

Members
Michael O. Uy
Richard O. Uy
Marilyn Uy Enriquez
Sandy T. Uy

Editha L. Manansala
President

Elmer M. Dizon
Executive Vice President
Special Sales Network and
Brokers' Network South Sector

Elmer M. Lorica
Executive Vice President
Brokers' Network North Sector

Alejandro S. Mañalac
Assistant Vice President
Vertical Sales Group

Clothilda Ann B. Roman
Assistant Vice President
Project Sales Management

Reynaldo B. De Leon
Senior Manager - Brokers' Network North Sector

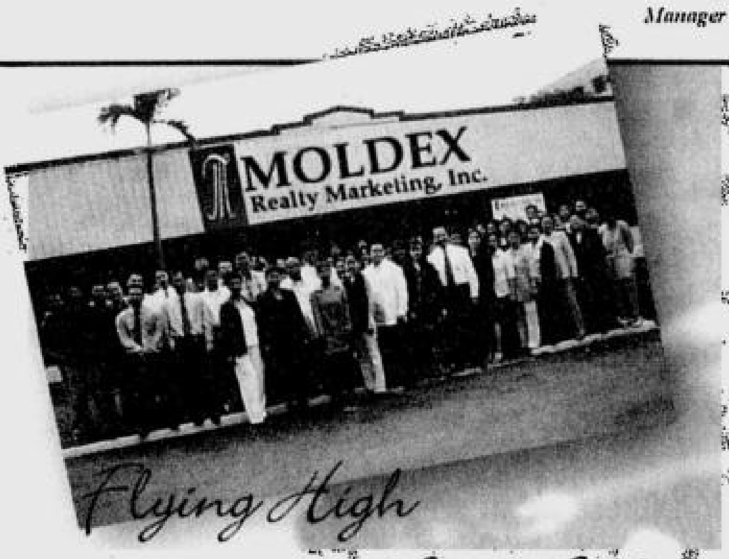
Fe A. Arellano
Senior Manager - Marketing Services Group

Theresa S. Aranas
Senior Manager - Special Sales Network (Horizontal)

Ma. Rolita P. Reodique
Manager - Project Sales Management - South

Juniper B. De Guzman
Manager - Project Sales Management -North

Rita C. Saguinsin
Manager - Key Accounts Network



Flying High
in the New Millennium

VISION STATEMENT

To be one of the leading real estate marketing organizations in the country by carrying only prime quality projects envisioned to exceed rising customer expectations.

MISSION

We are a marketing organization whose mission is to be the NUMBER ONE in the real estate industry, offering the best possible services to our customers.

To our customers, we pledge to provide the highest quality service guided by the Moldex values. We will always put them above all else.

To our human resources, we pledge to endlessly seek ways to provide room and opportunities for learning, growth and development, to inculcate in them the Moldex values and to instill in them a passion for work and pride in themselves.

We shall always focus on the improvement and development of our most valuable resources --- people.

And to the society we serve, we pledge to constantly contribute to its continued development and progress.

PROGRAMME

FOUNDATION DAY / INVESTORS' DAY

Summer Fair at the
METROGATE TAGAYTAY ESTATES CLUBHOUSE
Saturday, April 28,2001
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

8:00 AM - 9:00AM - Motorcade

9:00AM - 9:30 AM - Opening Ceremonies
10 30AM- 12 00 NN - Program/clown show
12 00 NN- 1 00 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM -3:00 PM - Games

Treats for the Day:
Face painting
Tarot card reading
Henna tattoo
Horseback/carriage riding

FAIR BOOTHS WITH LOTS OF FUN & SURPRISES

1322

OPEN HOUSE

April 28, Saturday,
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
at the site
Roxas Boulevard cor. Padre Faura St., Manila

B-MEG
A subsidiary of San Miguel Corporation

CONGRATULATIONS!
MOLDEX REALTY MARKETING, INC
in the celebration of its 5 th Year Anniversary

20th Floor SAN MIGUEL PROPERTIES CENTRE BLDG.
ST. FRANCIS ST., ORTIGAS CENTER
MANDALUYONG CITY 1550, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO.: 683-2451 TO 55 • FAX NO.: 637-4204

CONGRATULATIONS!
MOLDEX REALTY MARKETING, INC
in the celebration of its 5th Year Anniversary

April 27, 2001
Greetings from the
1st ISO-Certified Elevator Company in the Philippines
Jardine Schindler Elevator Corporation
Safety and Quality is our concern.

Jardines

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1284 Philippines
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Fax No.: (632) 843-1419

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Rosal Corner Tojong Streets
Lahug, Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 234-0438
Telefax. (032) 234-0436
24 Hours Service

BAGUIO BRANCH:
G/F De Guzman Building
18 Legarda Road
Baguio City
Tel. Nos.: (074) 619-0363
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MR. MAR RAMOS
Marketing Director
Special Sales Network
Department 2
3rd Runner-up
in Annual Paid-up Sales.

2048 Gil Puyat Ave. cor Leveriza St.
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Cell Number : 0919 - 7203595 Pager: 1388 90435
Fax No.: 551-0808

ARMED SECURITY & DETECTIVE AGENCY, INC.

Ground Floor LMK Building
#25 Bulacan St., West Ave. Quezon City
Tel. No.: 372-3310 • 372-3303 • 373-2846
414-5976 to 78 • FAX 373-3442
E-mail address : asdai@pacific.net.ph

Architects

Congratulations to
MOLDEX REALTY MARKETING, INC.
on its 5th Anniversary

MS. EVELYN F. APDO
Marketing Director
Special Sales Network
Department 14

2048 Gil Puyat Ave. cor Leveriza St.
Pasay City Tel. No.: 832-7777 loc 133
& 135 Cell Number : 0917 - 4677920
Fax Number 551-0808

REBTRADE
WATERPROOFING CONTRACTOR
Tel. 531-4651 to 58

METROBANK
METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

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DCCD ENGINEERING CORPORATION
Congratulations to
MOLDEX REALTY MARKETING, INC. on its
5th Anniversary

DRAGON ESTATE DEVELOPMENT CORP.
LAIDIA P. YU
General Manager
3rd. floor LRT Northmall, Caloocan City
Tel. No.: 363 - 4090 • 363 - 7978
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Career women shed suits for jeans

(From page C1)

way and setting up a home-based business.

"We were asked at Rockwell to draw up a five-year or 10-year plan. Other people said that they would get this or that position but I said I wanted to put up a home-based business," Lagdameo, 31, says.

Her dream came true less than a year later when she put up Iconcepts, a graphic design firm specializing in logo design and concepts and their various applications.

She was inspired by friends to go into business since clients who have worked with her in her various jobs appreciate her attention to details and original designs for logos, letterheads and brochures.

This, despite the fact that there are many graphic design companies that are servicing big names in the industry.

"I know that there is stiff competition but it doesn't really faze me because I am not interested in becoming very big but it does not mean that just because I don't want to be big, I don't want to be the best. In fact, I want to be the best in my niche which is logo design and applications," Lagdameo says.

Lagdameo says her days are more hectic ever since she decided to venture on her own but it is more fulfilling since she knows that her work comes from the heart.

Alterations Plus

Lucille Carlos, on the other hand, was forced to put up a business when her marriage crumbled and she was left to fend for herself and her children. She decided against working for a corporation again, thinking that she had to earn money and have enough time for family that a 9-5 job cannot provide.

Since she was always interested in clothes, it made good sense for her to pursue a business along this line. She went to a local fashion school to gain enough knowledge about what she was getting into, and a classmate became her first employee.

"I did everything myself. I used to go and talk directly with the officials of corporations to offer my services. I started out making uniforms for the hotel industry and country clubs," Carlos says.

It took a lot of convincing, she says, for the top hotels and country clubs to give her the contract to do their uniforms since she had no experience, but persistence paid off.

She solved the problem of raising capital by asking for a 50-percent down payment from her clients. She says it was enough to get the business started. Full payment ensured a decent profit for her and her sewers.

She was involved in the purchasing of the materials, design and quality control. She says she washes the samples of the uniforms at least 10 times to check the color and shrinkage.

"I wanted to provide a good service to the clients. That was all I knew, everything else about running a business, I learned on the job," Carlos says.

She was happily operating her uniforms business but she saw the opportunity to diversify when sales started to dip because of the Asian crisis. Big hotels and country clubs cut down their uniform requirements to save on cash.

Carlos then decided to put up Alterations Plus to answer the need of her clients to have off-the-rack clothes altered to fit their measurements.

HUANG: Area Home stores

"I just noticed that we were getting a lot of requests from clients to alter their clothes for them because many of the clothes they bought did not fit them well. I thought about making a business out of it," Carlos says.

She put up her first Alterations Plus at the Oakwood Premier serviced apartments in January 2000 and was quickly followed up with outlets at the Goldcrest and recently at the Rockwell Power Plant.

Alterations Plus now services the alteration needs of the top design houses in the Philippines such as Escada, Mango and Anne Klein.

With the success of her business ventures, Carlos has no regrets about going for the more risky road of operating a business. She says it suits her better because she likes to be on top of things and she likes deciding on her own.

It would not have been as easy if she were working for somebody else, even if it means longer hours and more stress.

O Café

Wilma Santos-Huang was once a typical career woman whose sights were set on making a name in the competitive and lucrative world of finance in the United States, no less.

With a master's degree in business administration under her belt, she was hired by Andersen Consulting and she worked there for three years, and worked another four years for the third largest garbage company in the US.

When she came back to the Philippines, she also worked for food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. under the packaging group.

"Working for myself in a small business was definitely not part of my plan, but maybe I was programmed to get into it by my father," Huang says.

Huang now works as general manager of Domain Inc., a company formed by friends that operates Area Home Store, Area Café and the latest venture O Café.

O Café opened its outlet in Robinson's Galleria last month and aims to be a guide through select Asian cuisine.

Huang says handling a small business is very different compared with working for large local and multinational companies. Being an entrepreneur, she says, demand so much more time and energy with the added responsibility of helping provide the needs of Area and O Café's staff.

"When you're in a big company, you have the benefit of asking people to do things for you. But here, I have to be very hands-on. I have to be involved in everything. I cannot rely on other people. I am 101 percent involved in the work," Huang explains.

When she gave birth to her first child, for instance, she had to be up and about in just a week because she had to attend to the demands of running the four Area Home Stores, four Area Café's and the O Café.

"In a big company, you have a benefit of 60 days maternity leave, here I can't do that," she says.

Huang, however, stresses that the benefits are also so much better in handling a small business as she can directly see and feel the fruits of her labor.

"In a big company, people are just bodies walking around, here I get the chance to know the employees and also their families. We are like one big family here, which I cannot say when I worked for companies," Huang says.

LAGDAMEO: Logo designs

CARLOS: Alterations Plus

SAY goodbye to the old gray and white monitors, it's time for color.

MORE color means more buyers.

As Net shopping rises, malls create shopping experiences

(From page C8)

to pick up that item," Brindejonc says.

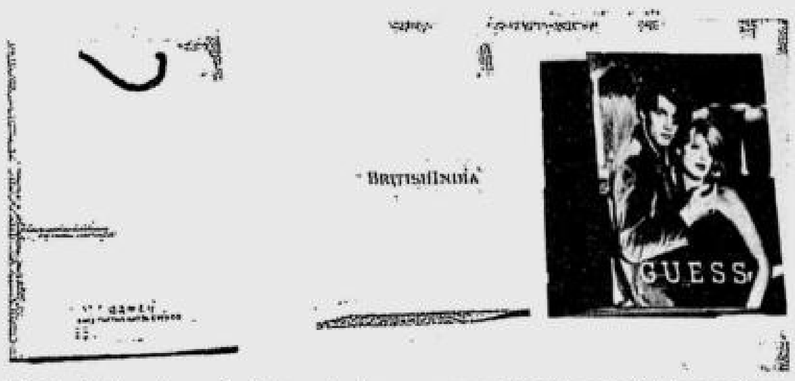
In European hypermarkets, Brindejonc says appliances and other big-ticket items are usually displayed at the front end of the shop while basic items are placed at the back. This is to encourage shoppers to linger at the expensive area first since they will always go for the basic items anyway.

"For beer and other beverages, we want to give a bulky impression so the beverage are stuck close together. Clothes should be hung while for personal care items, we want to use white because it looks clean," Brindejonc adds.

Steven Tan of Danfoss Industries Pte. Ltd., maker of display equipment, says displaying fresh food is also important for retailers, saying that it is one of the main attractions and cannot be provided by online retailers.

There are other ways such as the posters, advertising materials and even shopping bags. Tan says it is the totality of the shopping experience that will determine in the end whether the shopping mall will stay or give way to the Internet.

"With the Internet becoming a common tool in our lives particularly for the working and economically active population, retailers and shopping malls will have to offer benefits that cannot be found on the Net to remain relevant and attractive to shoppers," he says.



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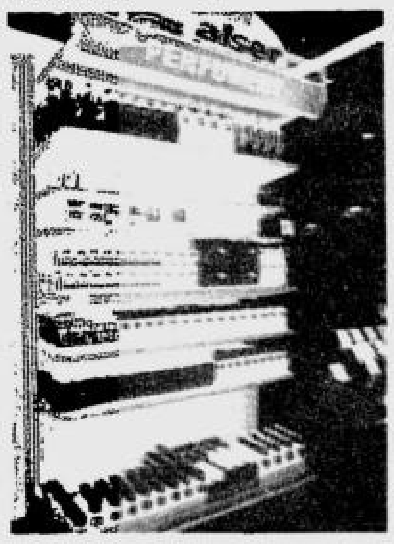
BUSINESS *Friday*

As Net shopping rises, malls create shopping experiences

EVEN weighing scales for fresh food are given a new look to entice customers.



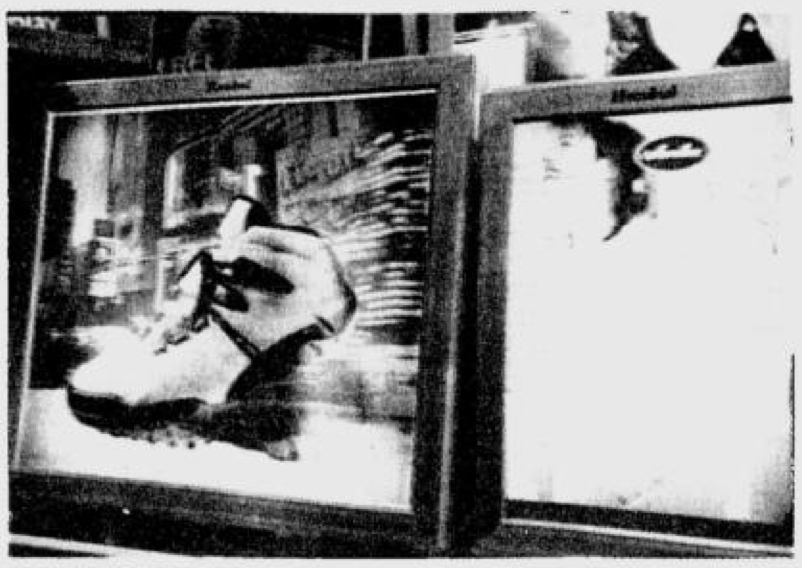
FITTINGS for personal care items should look clean.

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

SINGAPORE—It may not be too obvious now, but more and more people are turning toward the Internet to do their shopping.

It is estimated that revenue from online shopping will go up to $41 billion by the end of next year, a seven-fold increase from only $6 billion in 1998. This was attributed to the fact that career men and women just do not have the time to go to a mall everyday.

SINCE shopping is a family affair, supermarkets must have provisions for the little ones.



ADVERTISING displays are now going toward three-dimensional images.

Will this mean the end of shopping malls?

It's not, according to Harold Tan, head of regional research and consultancy of Jones Lang Lasalle. He, however, stressed during the recently concluded Retail Industry Trade Event 2001 and Singapore Retail Industry Conference that retailers should add value to shoppers to counteract the power of the Internet.

He said retailers should go beyond just "order taking" as what the Internet shopping malls do, and provide a value in terms of quality merchandise, customer service and convenience. One of the principal ways to do this is to play up on the sensory experiences of shopping—the "see, touch, feel elements" that the Internet cannot provide.

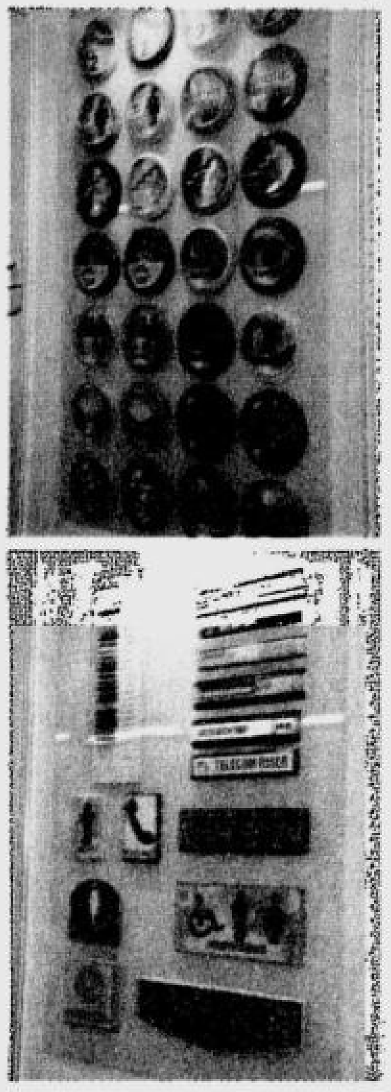
"It is important to recognize that shopping has become more than just buying products and services. Shopping centers have become producers of experiences for its visitors. People visit shopping malls not only to buy specific physical products," Tan says.

According to a study by Jones Lang Lasalle, a property analyst, people visit malls to socialize with family and friends, update themselves on new products and services, experience new products and services, browse for relaxation and entertainment and finally, enjoy the aesthetics and facilities in the shopping center.

"The Internet cannot reproduce these three-dimensional and sensory experiences that can only be found in brick and mortar shopping centers. Therefore, shopping mall managers can emphasize and play up on these elements to counter the flow of shopping dollars to Internet shopping," he adds.

Playing up on these touch and see elements of shopping will, thus, require new ways of displaying items or sprucing up the outlets to get the shoppers to come in and browse. During the RITE 2001, some of the latest in retail supplies were showcased to help brick and mortar retailers provide consumers with the lifestyle experience to shopping.

Stephane Brindejonc of Alser Innovation tells Business Friday that the manner the items are displayed are important to the retailer as almost 50 percent of shoppers buy things on impulse—they buy because they think the product looks nice.



RETAILERS should not overlook little details such as signs and markers.

"How the items are displayed vary with the products. You cannot display underwear in the same way you display home care products or beverages. It has to be specific to the product to encourage shoppers

AS/ C7

Need your birth certificates? Call the NSO Helpline Plus

THE NATIONAL Statistics Office (NSO) translates the benefits of technology into improved service delivery as it offers various options to the public to bring its services closer to its customers.

One of these revolutionary options is the NSO Helpline Plus, a call center that caters to the requests of NSO customers for copies of birth, marriage and death certificates. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including Sundays and holidays, nationwide. The toll-free hotline number is 737-1111. The public can just call in their request and the courier will deliver the document right at their doorstep. NSO Helpline Plus currently receives 2,000-2,500 orders a day.

The other alternative channel is e-Census, the Web component of the NSO's computerization project, which can be accessed at www.e-Census.com.ph. The NSO, in partnership with Pilipinas TeleServ Inc. and Unisys, recently launched this Web-based facility at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

"The alternative channels aim to serve the needs of the public in the most convenient and reliable manner," says NSO Administrator Tomas P. Africa.

Requests made within Metro Manila are charged P175, and P190 for requests from the provinces. All rates are inclusive of the LBC delivery charge. The customer receives the document after 14 working days upon confirmation of payment at any Metrobank branch nationwide.

An added feature of the NSO Helpline Plus is the instant information on civil registration guidelines, quick NSO statistics on population, foreign and domestic trade, business, labor and employment and other NSO generated information.

"With NSO Helpline Plus and e-Census, NSO hopes to reach more people and bring their services to where and when it is needed," Africa adds.

NSO Helpline Plus was developed by Pilipinas TeleServ Inc., a tele-solutions company offering a wide variety of services with the use of the call center technology. It recently launched DFA Passport Direct, the first passport renewal service by phone in Asia and the world. The toll-free hotline is 737-1000, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In advertising . . .

(From page C3)

drinks.

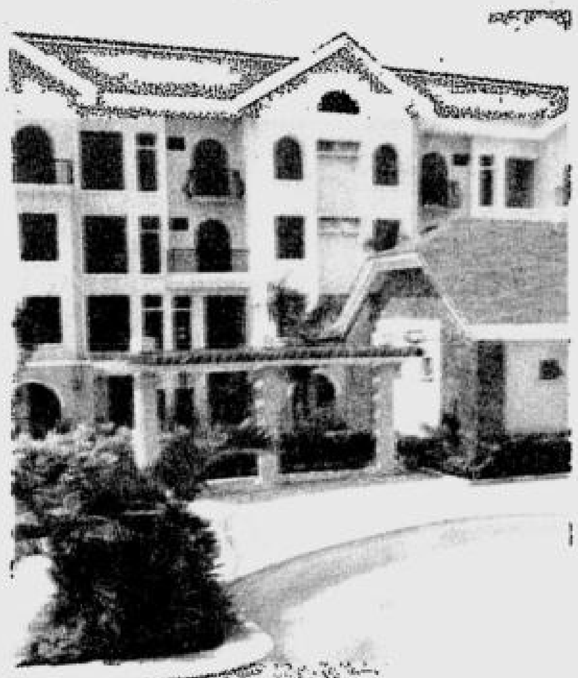
It found a winner in its Calamansi soda which is already being exported and enjoying brisk sales abroad in particular the US West Coast, Canada and Japan.

Cada says instead of using imported flavors, they opted to use local resources that they develop for export.

Zest-O also bought Sunglo, the brand of different flavored powdered juice drinks.

It also acquired Plus which had a strong hold in the bigger doy pack ready-to-drink market. Zest-O has its Big, also in 250 ml.

The group also has its Quick Chow brand and it is opening a noodle plant in Cagayan de Oro to serve the Visayas and Mindanao areas. These moves go hand in hand with the further expansion of its ready-to-drink juice and soda lines.



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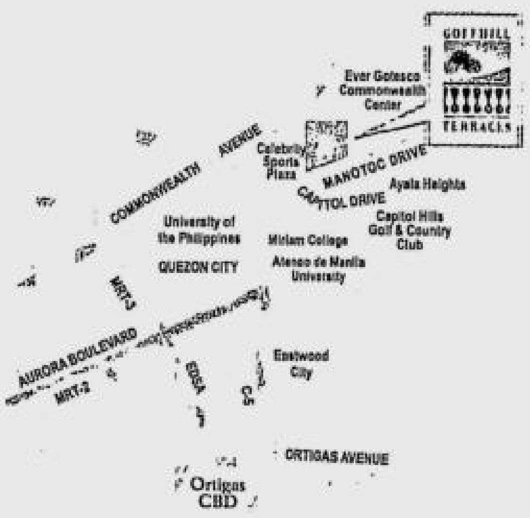

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Trend Spotting
LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ▪ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor

Blue jeans acquire fashionable image

ROCK ON BABY

FROM A UTILITARIAN garment, the denim is now marketed as a symbol of sensuality.

PHOTOS BY RAYMOND LAUCHENGCO

DENIMS have come a long way since their humble beginnings as pants for the working class. Today, jeans have become symbols of sexuality, rebellion and social status.

In America, jeans used to be worn by farmers' sons. In the '50s, they replaced the khaki twills as costume of the radical and bohemian students. As the 1960s began, the political and social radicals became less of an isolated fringe, coming in time to set the social style for much of their generation. Blue jeans became the uniform of the college set, although not every young radical adopted the full uniform of the early Civil Rights workers—denim pants and jacket with a blue workshirt for daily wear. By the time 2 million turned out to protest the Cambodian bombings and Kent State killings in 1970, it seemed that half of the demonstrators wore jeans.

By then, young women in blue jeans was as common a sight here as men. Their taking to pants in the '60s was more than a surface shift of style. It reflected the undercurrents that emerged during the women's liberation movement. The pants they chose to wear were jeans (rather than "ladylike" slacks). This was in itself a mildly political choice.

Hippie movement

In San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district where the hippie movement emerged in 1967, jeans became a unisex costume that was decorated with a rainbow of flowers. Jeans became the raw canvas for art.

More than any other sort of surface or fabric, the countercultural spirits of play and of sensual relish seized on ordinary blue-denim clothing to decorate and adorn. Stray holes were patched with gold velvet, casual emblems ornamented pockets and knees. Men grown embroidered peacocks down the thighs of their jeans; women stitched intricate mandalas and fantasies into the backs and shoulders of denim jackets. Even old jeans were recycled, the many hues of their faded indigos pieced into skirts and spreads of subtle patchwork.

Soon jeans tailored for women were marketed. Abandoning the fly-buttons for a zipper, they were often of thinner cloth, and of such variable style that the whole element of fashion began to subvert what had seemed an eternal integrity. Others think that blue jeans fell to fashion when the narrow legs of the original Levi's jeans (and the slightly wider J.C. Penny's imitations) gave way to the flared bell-bottom legs that the hippies liked to dance in. But the real dynamic was much deeper.

In the '70s, manufacturers jumped on the Blue Jeans Bandwagon to peddle what had become a stylish commodity at rapidly escalating prices. Soon the riot of pre-faded, pre-patchworked and pre-streaked-with-bleach varieties gave way to cooler variations of haughtier pretension, as name brands pursued the struggle for stylistic dominance onto the fashion pages.

The surge in American prices and status came well after blue jeans had become a hot item in France, selling for three or four times their domestic cost.

Billion-dollar business

By 1980, jeans had become a billion-dollar business. The traces of their former meanings—as frontier and rural wear, then as uniform of a subculture in ferment—were melting beneath the onslaught of images and redefinitions that established them generally as modish wear, featured even in the salons of high fashion.

The sensual spirit that had swelled to ornament blue ground was captured by an automated sewing plant and reduced to inscribing white-threaded hearts to stretch tautly across the buttocks of young women and girls, vapid symbols of invitation to a mass-produced carnality as shallow as plastic. Such symbolism was eschewed by the high-class marketers of designer jeans. They preferred to emphasize silhouette and innumerable petty variations on pocket-placement and contrasting seam-stitching, aiming simply to place their names or monograms on as many rumps as possible of whatever sex, quite as if they were branding cattle.

In such terms the designers vied, striving for product-differentiation to exploit an overcrowded market. But the truth is there isn't a hell of a lot you can do with blue jeans, other than add polyester to make them crumple-free or crease-holding. They're just plain, decent pants, and one

BLUE/ p.D6

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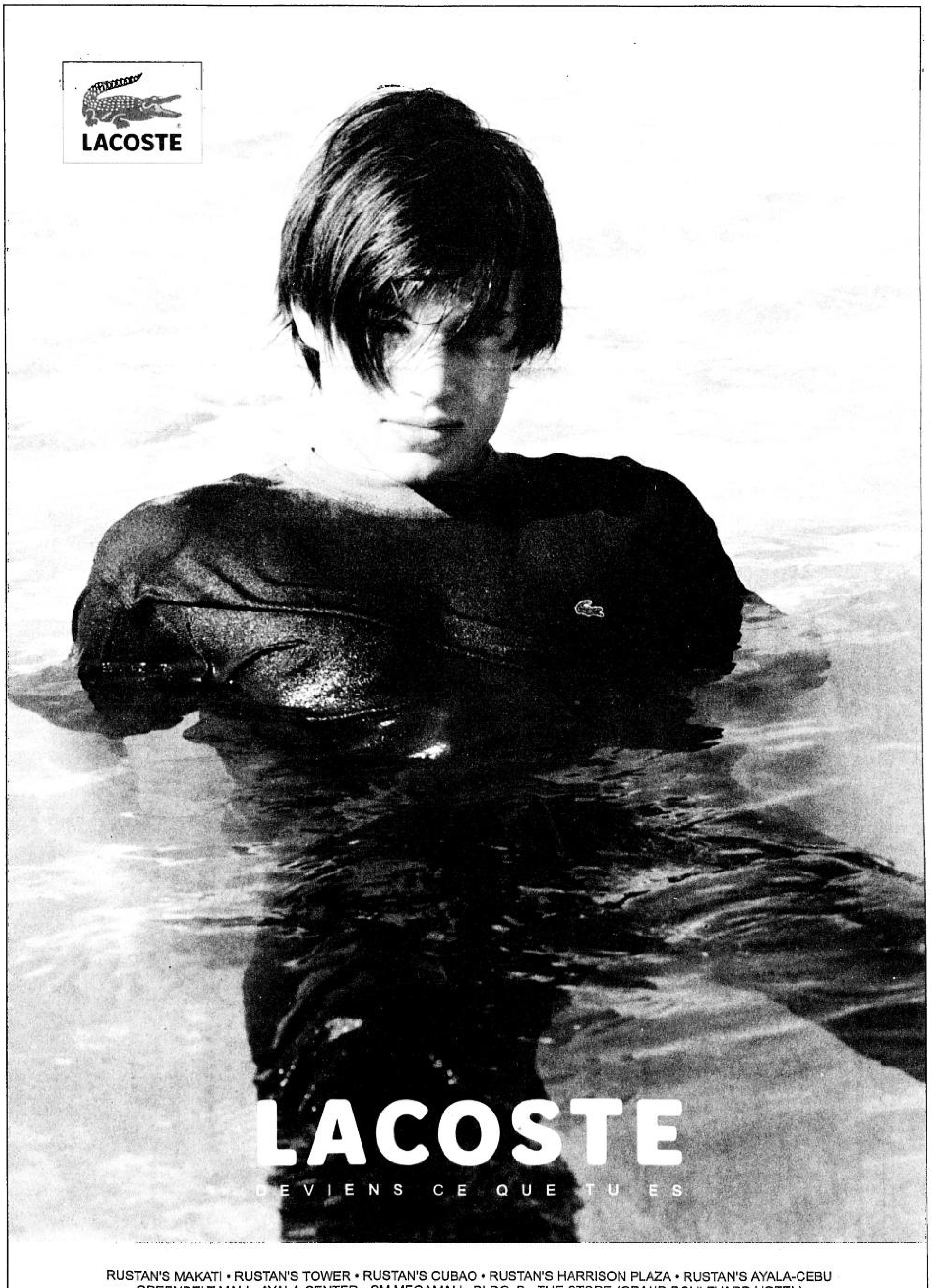
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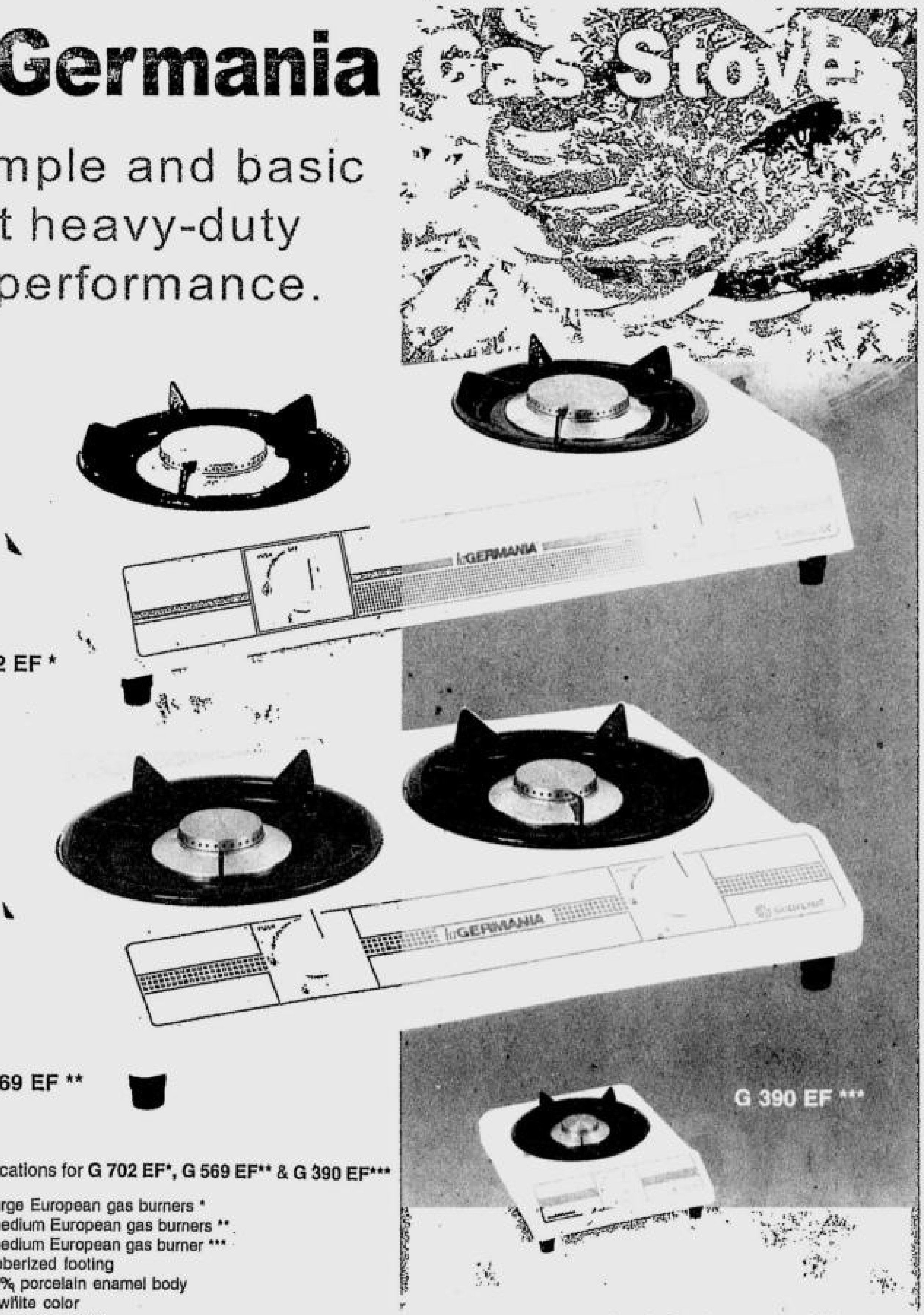

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Rubbing elbows with rock-'n'-roll legends

BY BESSIE BADILLA-DEL CASTILLO

MY dad's demise early this year has left me feeling empty, making it almost impossible to return to my daily routine. Many of my projects were put on hold, at least—I thought—until I got over the loss of my father. Obviously, we never get over the loss of a loved one; it just gets easier and bearable with time.

To alleviate my feeling of emptiness, my talented friend Darryl Spencer, whose "Red Bird" album I helped conceptualize under MCA/Universal, surprised me with an invitation to the 16th Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Concert at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. I was not prepared for the exciting event that was about to unfold when I met him in the city right after his rehearsals with the likes of Ricky Martin, king of soul Solomon Burke and the '50s vocal band, The Flamingos.

Upclose

The police lined the side streets of the hotel, while the Waldorf's main entrance on Park Avenue was jammed with press people, paparazzi and fans waiting to get a glimpse of the VIPs as they stepped out of their stretch limos. We passed through the back entrance and went straight to the ballroom where we were handed our credentials, which allowed us backstage access.

We were seated at the table of the musical director, Paul Shaffer, known to many as David Letterman's music man. I sat to his right. Wow, with this alone, I could have driven back home to Connecticut and never forget the experience! He was very accommodating. He left the table several times to check on the show's progress, getting back to prepare the vocalists and band members for the next number. Mary Seymour, an enchanting lady who fell in love with the Philippines when she was on tour with the '70s disco band Musique, vocalist/composer Kenny Williams ("Everybody Plays a Fool," "Sometime"), vocalist Babi Floyd and Shaffer's band members, Felicia Collins (guitar), Will Lee (bass) and Al Chez (trumpet) were among the beautiful people I sat with.

The show started an hour late, but after the speeches by the founder of Atlantic Records, Ahmet Ertegun, and legendary executive producer Seymour Stein, the entire evening escalated to a wild frenzy with numbers like Queen's "We Will Rock You", Burke's "Cry To Me", Steely Dan's "Black Friday," Paul Simon's "Graceland," The Flamingo's "I Only Have Eyes for You," Martin's hip-grinding performance of a medley of Ritchie Valen songs ("Come on Let's Go," "O Donna," "La Bamba") and Aerosmith's heart-stopping new hit single, "Jaded."

While all these exciting numbers were happening before my very eyes, I was simultaneously sharing every detail of the show with Bert de Leon, executive producer of Darryl's "Red Bird" CD, and with my family and friends through the wonders of text messaging.

Hall of Fame

The introduction and induction of Hall of Famers were also filled with so much energy that the entire night would leave me exhausted. Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones inducted not one, but two "sidemen"—James Burton (guitarist to music greats like Ricky Nelson and "The King" himself, Elvis Presley), and pianist Johnnie Johnson (Chuck Berry's counterpoint). Mary J. Blige inducted Solomon Burke; and techno artist Moby inducted the reclusive duo of Donald Fagen and Walter Becker, the talents behind Steely Dan.

Already in the Hall of Fame with his brothers as members of the Jackson 5, Michael Jackson, his right foot in a cast, accepted his second induction from boy band 'N Sync, for his solo career that includes "Thriller." Sony estimates the album has sold more than 47 million copies worldwide. Latin balladeer Marc Anthony inducted Paul Simon for his solo career. He is already in the Hall of Fame for his work with Art Garfunkel.

Other inductees included: Queen, whose lead singer Freddie Mercury died of AIDS in 1991; The Flamingos, creators of the immortal doo-bop-she-bop; the late Ritchie Valens, the first Latin artist to embrace his heritage; Island Records founder Chris Blackwell, who nurtured the likes of Bob Marley and U2; and the unrestrained Boston-spawned hard-rock band, Aerosmith, inducted by bad boy Kid Rock.

The ceremony and concert ended with almost all the inductees, inductors and a few brave members of the audience getting on stage for a jam session that lasted for more than an hour. Celebrities Liv Tyler (daughter of Aerosmith's Steven Tyler), Sony's Tommy Mottola, Clive Davies, The Supremes' Mary Wilson, Billy Paul ("Me and Mrs. Jones"), Marc Anthony's better half, former Miss Universe Dayanara Torres, and many more danced the night away.

As for me, I kept telling myself to calm down and be cool. I was too star-struck to even clap my hands or stomp my feet to all the rockin' 'n' rollin'.

One thing for sure, from now on, whenever I miss my dad, I'll know I have to move on. I shall always remember the 400-pound preacher and king of soul, Solomon Burke, in his electric blue fur-lined robe saying: "To all of my 21 children, 58 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, 'Let's Get It On!'"

I hear you Mr. Burke, "Right on!"

THE SUPREMES' Mary Wilson

KID Rock

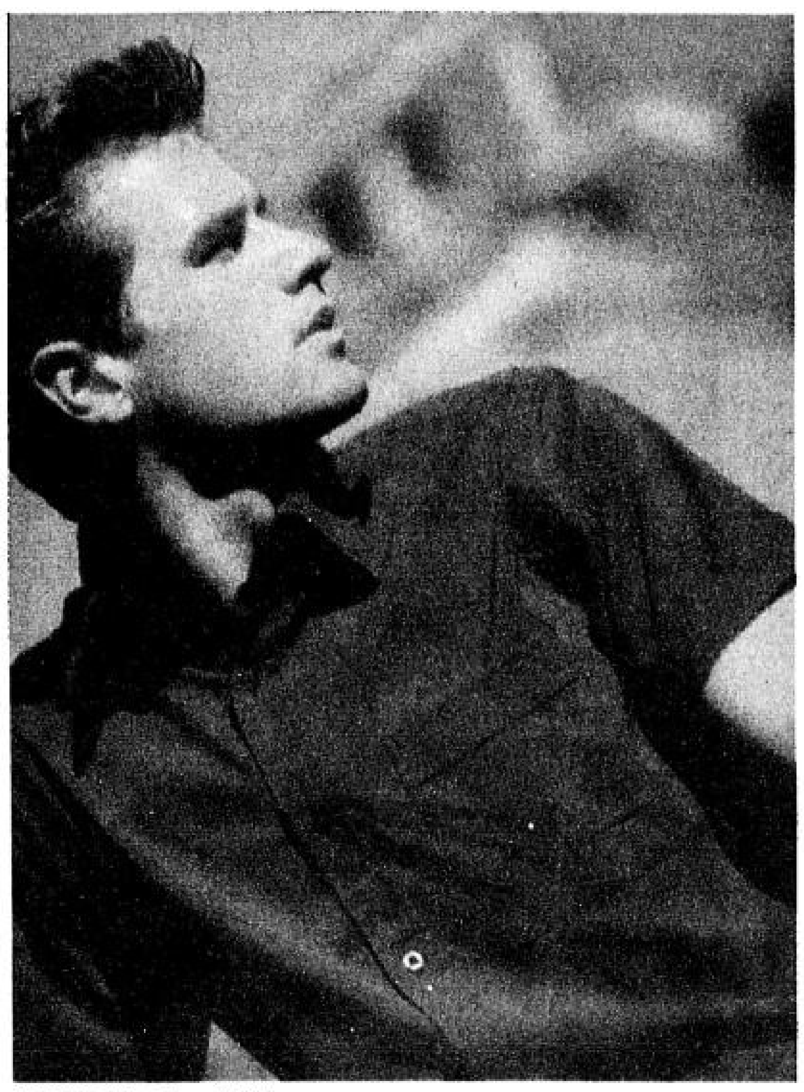
KEITH Richards of Rolling Stone and James Burton

MARC Anthony

STEVEN Tyler of Aerosmith

FROM LEFT, Kenny Williams, Mary Seymour, the author and Darryl Spencer

The brand that softened men's stiff dressing



RELIABLE tailored shirt

ARROW shirts have come a long way from a one-room workshop in Troy, New York to an international corporation with licensees in more than 80 countries. A men's line of apparel that traces its roots in the mid-1800s, Arrow knows how it is to dress up a man.

Up until the late 1940s, Arrow influenced the rise of "soft dressing" in men's clothing. Arrow sought to replace with softer, more presentable styles the usually stiff, starched, stand-up collars that is distinct of men's clothes.

The 1940s also saw the emergence of sports and casual wear as men started to live more active and leisurely lifestyles. To complement this, Arrow started creating 400 different collar styles to suit the particular taste of each man, believing that 90 percent of the style of any shirt is in the collar.

The 1950s marked a significant transition for Arrow to market its products under strict specifications in foreign countries. This was a truly original business concept at the time, later imitated by other international brands.

In the following decades, Arrow continued to respond to the styles of the times. Boldly striped shirts and rich, vividly colored sportswear for the groovy '60s; floral prints for the disco-influenced '70s; refined, polished, all-cotton dress shirts for the power '80s; and sophisticated shirts, sweaters, trousers and jackets for the global '90s. Like the times, Arrow looked to the past and embraced traditions that had begun decades ago, and merged this with the present to come out with original styles.

As men continue to be absorbed in the globalization of business and worldwide computerization of resources, Arrow will be side by side to give them innovative style and fashion.

Arrow shirts are available in the men's section of all SM Department Stores and Robinsons Place Manila.

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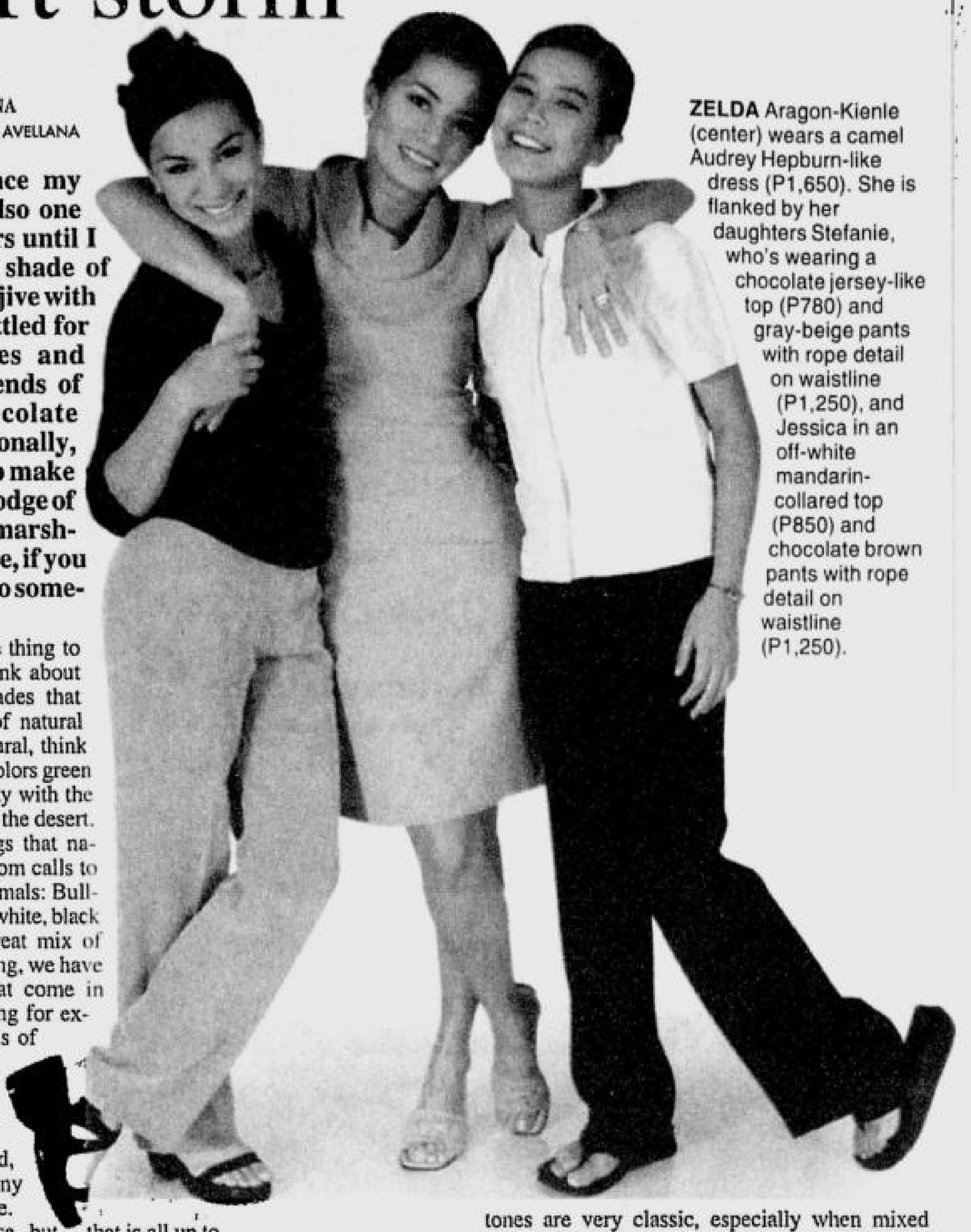
Desert storm

By Camille T. Cruz
Photo by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana



ZELDA Aragon-Kienle (center) wears a camel Audrey Hepburn-like dress (P1,650). She is flanked by her daughters Stefanie, who's wearing a chocolate jersey-like top (P780) and gray-beige pants with rope detail on waistline (P1,250), and Jessica in an off-white mandarin-collared top (P850) and chocolate brown pants with rope detail on waistline (P1,250).

"CAMEL" was once my nickname. It was also one of my favorite colors until I discovered that its shade of brown did not quite jive with my skin shade. I settled for deeper earth tones and found the right blends of camel, nude, chocolate brown and, occasionally, some white to mix to make one decent hodge-podge of a fudgy, caramel, marshmallow-like brownie, if you were to compare it to something edible.

The earth is a terrible thing to waste and when you think about it, there are certain shades that make a perfect vision of natural tones. When we say natural, think of nature aside from the colors green and blue. This time, away with the beach scene and bring in the desert.

There are other things that nature can provide aside from calls to the restroom. We see animals: Bulldogs in blends of coffee, white, black and a fawn color—a great mix of brown and red. For bathing, we have oatmeal concoctions that come in blocks, liquid, or anything for external use. In other fields of life, we see these natural or flesh tones that can appeal to clothing as well.

For the light-skinned, camel will be okay—any style, anytime, anywhere.

Rules apply, of course, but that is all up to you. For medium skin tones, a darker shade of camel can work. Anything too light will add to a camouflage effect and will not create a look on you. A nice mix of chocolate brown and medium-to-dark camel will be good. A nice fawn paired with black is a great combination. For the very dark skinned, a black top and a dark brown bottom is reasonable.

Shades of brown are great for the earth, especially when seen through a great accessory, be it a nice polished handbag or a pair of shoes. Earth tones are very classic, especially when mixed with monochromatic schemes or with white.

There is a lot to mix with the brown family. Light and dark blend very well in shades of brown. A chocolate brown accessory is especially attractive when worn with a camel outfit or other tones of the earth.

Note: If you need visual assistance in suggested shades to mix, you may want to read one of the fashion editorials in this month's issue of Marie Claire.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail. com

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HAIR AND MAKEUP BY
PETER URBI

SHOES BY MARIE NICOLE

What makes young girls happy

HOW do you keep up with the fickle youth market when even the words to tag it become outdated as quickly as you can mouth "cool" or "hip"?

Petit Monde knows this market only too well. Twelve years in the fashion retail business and the people behind this clothes chain know better than to slow down and just observe from afar.

"You can't stay put if you are looking at the youth market. There is no way but to be quick and responsive with what's happening around, and we are not just talking about fashion here or their petty likes and dislikes. We are talking about going inside their minds and understanding what they really want not just in fashion but even their values, or go to the extent of ideologies," explains Dorothy Tan-Tionson, the creative force behind Petit Monde.

It helped a lot that when Petit Monde started, the Tan sisters Carol and Dorothy (joined by their other siblings later) were in their early 20s. At that time, young people were into simple shirts, pastel poles and jeans ensemble, really none of the apron blouses and tube tops that today's young misses go gaga about. Back then, the sisters admit, the market was so easy to please. "We'd just go to college in jeans and tees and for as long as they were not tacky, it was okay. The shirts could have those neon prints or cute cartoon characters and you were already cool," Carol, 35, recalls.

But the brand had to evolve, especially so when they started getting invitations to open in mega Manila's major shopping malls. As Petit Monde grew, the brains behind it began to seriously look into what girls really, really want and decide to give it to them without qualms.

The two sisters were among the first in their generation to employ the use of young movie stars with clean, wholesome reps as image models. The idea was a hit and they stuck to the formula. Today, Petit Monde counts on the fresh and breezy images of Anne Curtis, Cheska Garcia and Jodi Santa Maria to continue the Petit Monde tradition.

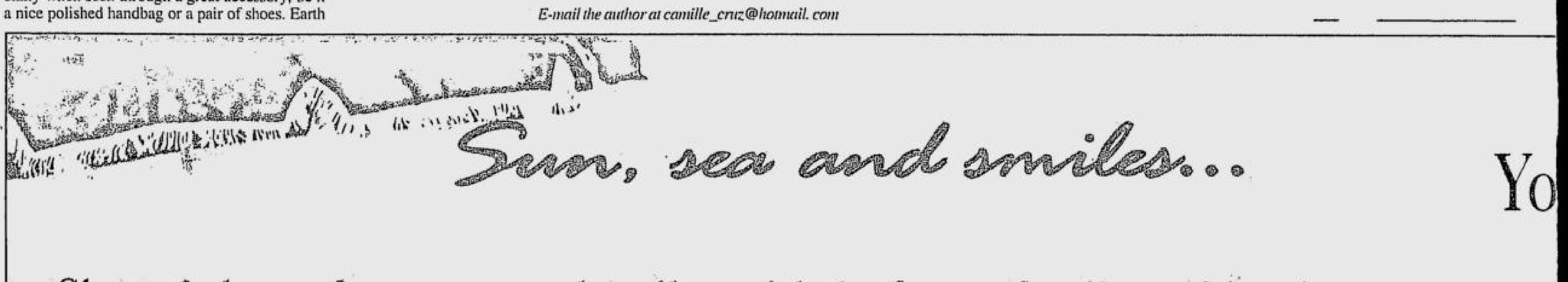
"We just have to open our ears and eyes and observe. We took the queue from what Christina Aguilera said in her song, 'what a girl wants, what a girl needs, whatever makes her happy and sets her free.' It's all embodied in that song—what makes these young girls happy are clothes that allow them to make a statement, clothes that make them feel they belong. They may not be head-turners, but they want something they can wear in school, at work and off to a nightcap in Malate or Glorietta. They may not stand out, but they feel all right because they are happy with themselves," Carol adds, saying their fashion sense also evolved with their brand.

So what do girls in 2001 really want?

"The colors, the style, down to the material—they should reek of fun and adventure. They do not have to be skin-baring and all, although it comes like a breath of fresh air when you see girls having the time of their lives in spaghetti-strapped blouses and tube tops, oozing with confidence. There's only one rule we want to impart to them—whatever makes you happy," Dorothy chimes in.

Today, Petit Monde is usually the first resort of young women (teenagers and young adults both) when they scour the malls for trendy things to wear from casuals to semi-formal. But really, there need not be any occasion, Carol says. "I'm sure all women know there is something about buying clothes that is therapeutic, that lifts up the spirit. It never fails; young girls come out of the shop with a huge smile when they find something they fancy and shell out a few pesos for it. That's what Petit Monde is all about."

CHESKA Garcia wears a woven sleeveless snakeskin printed top with linen pants. PHOTO BY JUN DE LEON



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There's a story behind every scent

THE INSPIRATION behind each of Calvin Klein's fragrance creation comes with a personal history from the renowned American fashion designer. Eternity fragrance was inspired by Calvin Klein's own marriage to former design assistant Kelly Rector. In honor of their union, Calvin gave to Kelly an antique wedding band, originally a gift from the Duke of Windsor to his much beloved Duchess. The ring was inscribed with one word, "Eternity." And the rest is history.

Calvin Klein created the Escape fragrance for the woman who aspires to realize her deepest passions and true desires, escaping the boundaries of everyday life. Truth Calvin Klein, the latest addition to the Calvin Klein Classic Fragrance collection, was inspired by the lush freshness of nature and warm sensuality of the skin. Says the designer, "Truth is about taking the time to slow down and experience the sensuality in everyday life."

This summer, get inspired with any of the Calvin Klein Classic Fragrance, namely Escape, Contradiction, Eternity and Truth Calvin Klein and be gifted with a sports duffel.

Until May 10, every minimum purchase of P4,000 worth of Calvin Klein Classic Fragrance automatically entitles you to a Calvin Klein sports duffel bag.

Visit any Calvin Klein Fragrance counter in Shoemart, Landmark, Rustan's and Robinsons and avail of this great summer promotion.

Calvin Klein offers promo

ESCAPE
for men
Calvin Klein

ESCAPE, a Calvin Klein Classic fragrance

"EVERY person needs his own personal form of adventure to escape and leave the world behind," says American fashion icon Calvin Klein. This belief is the inspiration behind one of Calvin Klein's popular fragrances called Escape.

This summer, Calvin Klein gives one a chance to escape to one of the most seductive resorts in the world—Banyan Tree in Bintan, Indonesia, dubbed as the "Sanctuary for the Senses" for good reason.

Nestled above a secluded bay on the Northern corner of Bintan Island, Banyan Tree occupies a breathtaking elevated bay front area overlooking the South China Sea.

Banyan Tree in Bintan, Indonesia also boasts of one of the best spas in the world.

Enjoy being pampered with invigorating spa treatments such as massage therapies that combine both European and Asian techniques.

One may win roundtrip tickets for two and a three-day, two-night getaway stay at Banyan Tree in Bintan, Indonesia with any purchase of Escape fragrances at Rustan's Department Store from May 5 to June 2.

With any purchase of Escape fragrances, one may enjoy a 30-percent discount on published rates at Banyan Tree from any Rustan's Department store from May 5 to Oct. 31.

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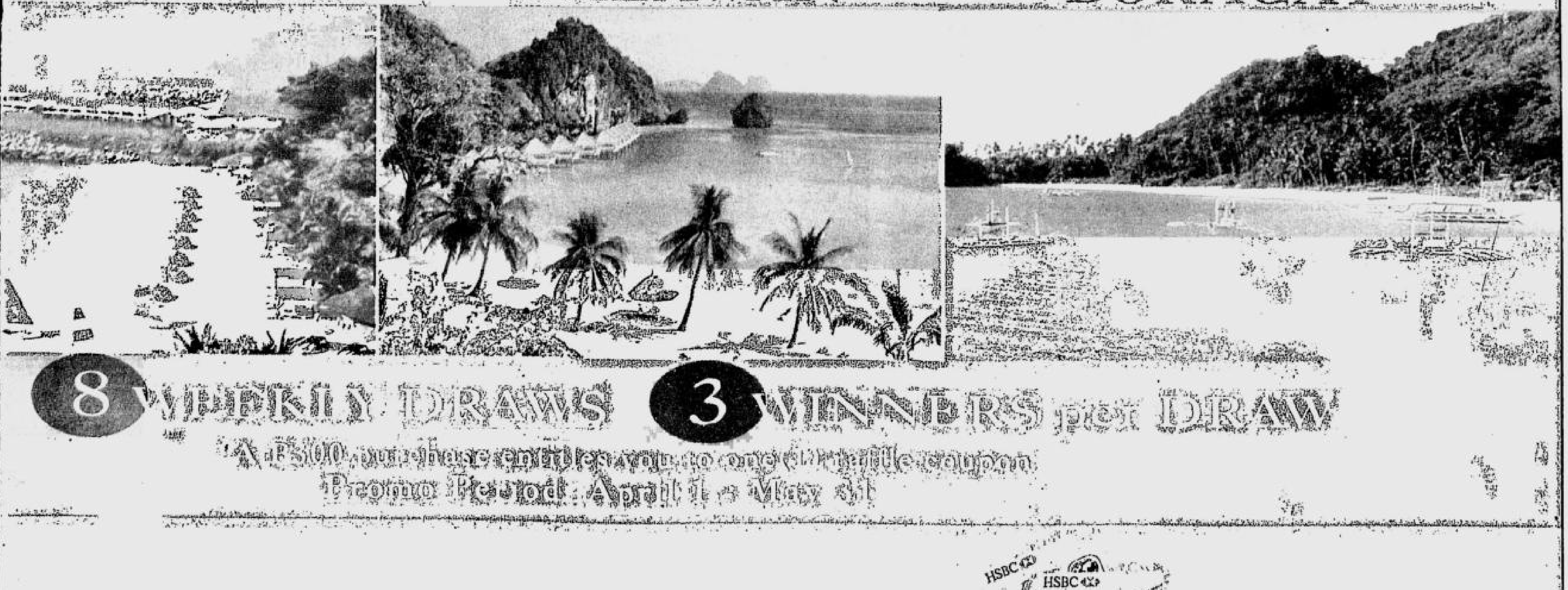

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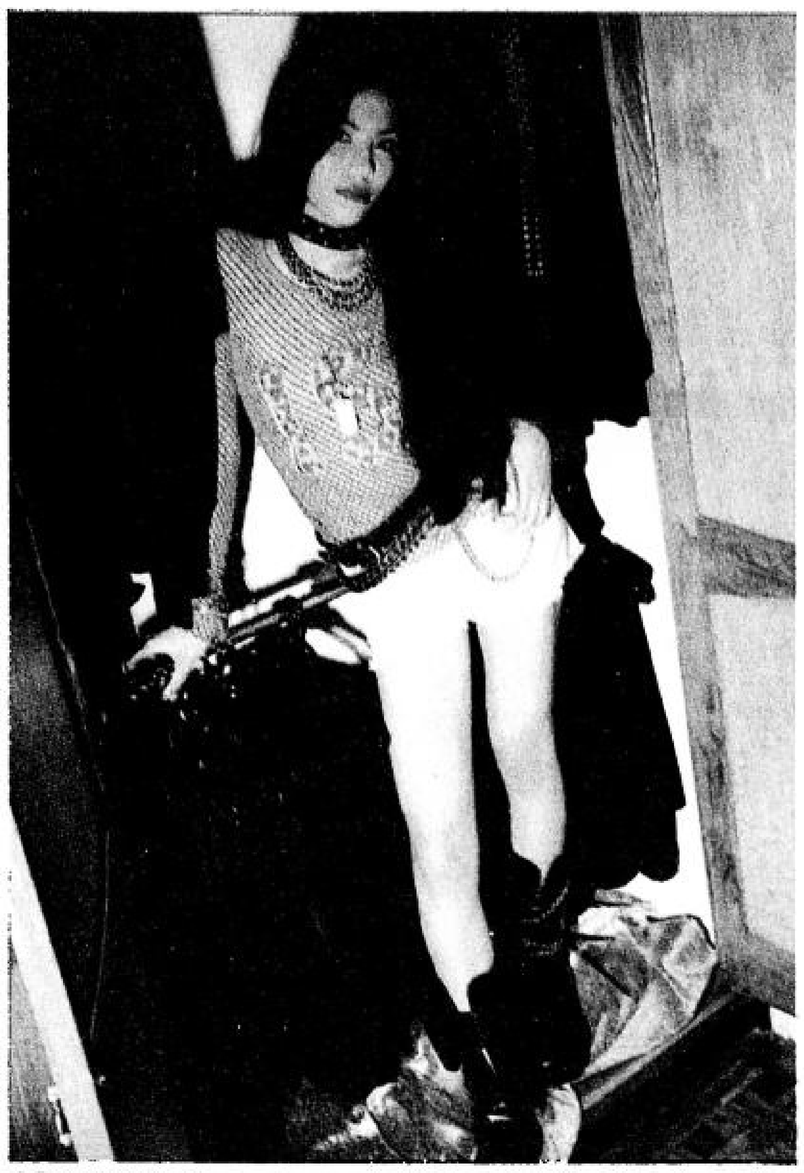


GOING PUNK. The denim material becomes cut-off shorts that go with a mesh T-shirt. For a punk look, accessorize with chains, riveted dog collars and military boots.

Blue jeans acquire fashionable image

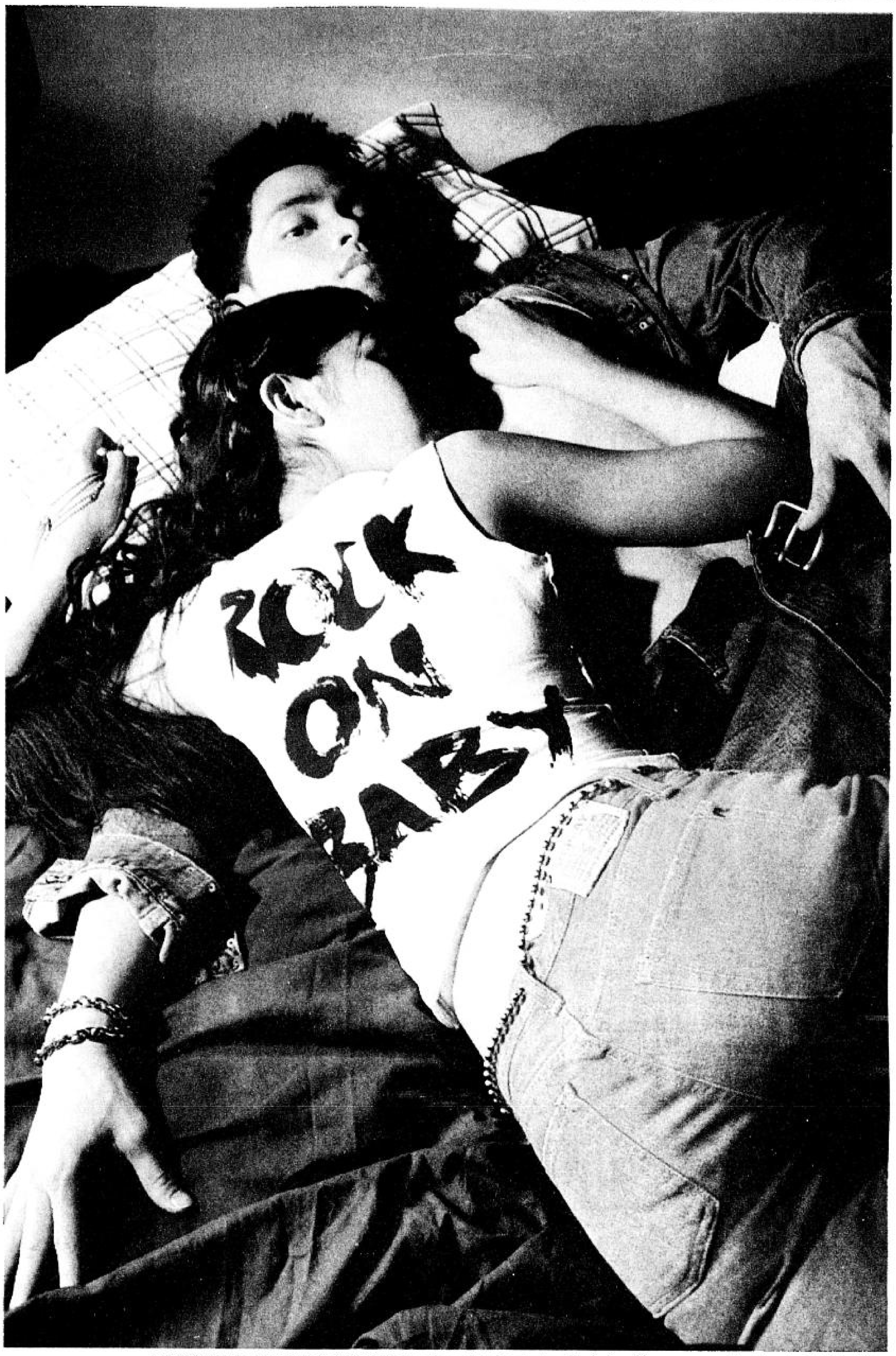
(From page D1)

kind does about as well as any other if it's not shoddily made. Though the marketers did try, it's hard to convince someone to need jeans that are short, long, for parties, for the snow and of 17 different colors. In the end, all the new-come designers were reduced mainly to fiction, to selling by pure bogus value—and as their competition progressed, it reached remarkable heights or depths.

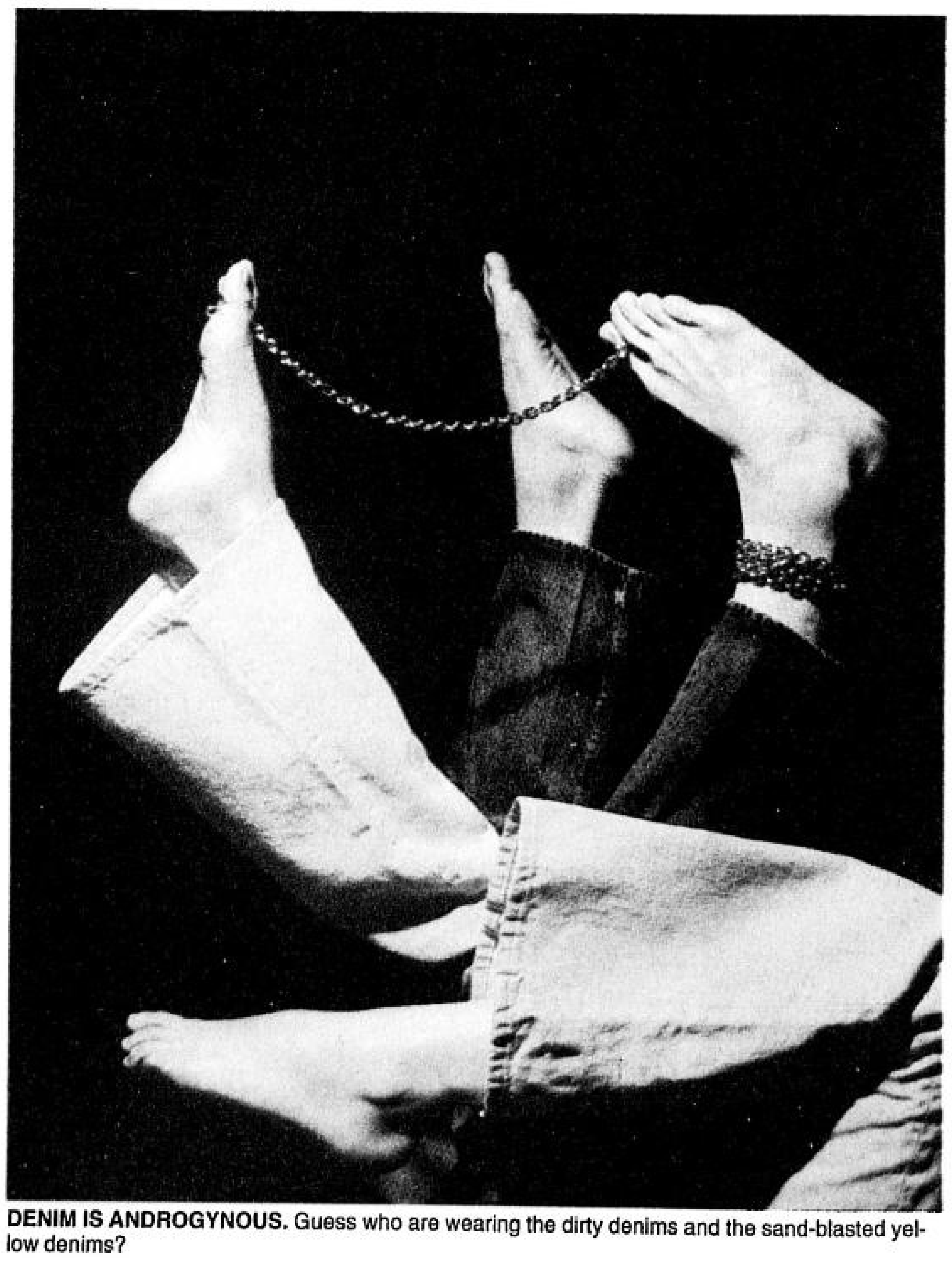
In the media, at least, commercial smut and snobbism had become the jean brand; and those who drew their values from them were glad to pay a premium to wear some hyped name around for others to see. In all this, the earlier social meanings of this clothing were not simply displaced like a fading color, but entirely reversed.

Across a gulf of two decades, the high-cheekboned model posing in a caped pants suit of suede denim, with coordinate blue cotton blouse, confronted the gaunt-cheeked activist in his rumpled jeans, jacket and workshirt. Though both seemed equally exotic to those who still wore plain denim overalls or look-alikes for utility value on the farm and playground, it was hard now to see what else they had in common.

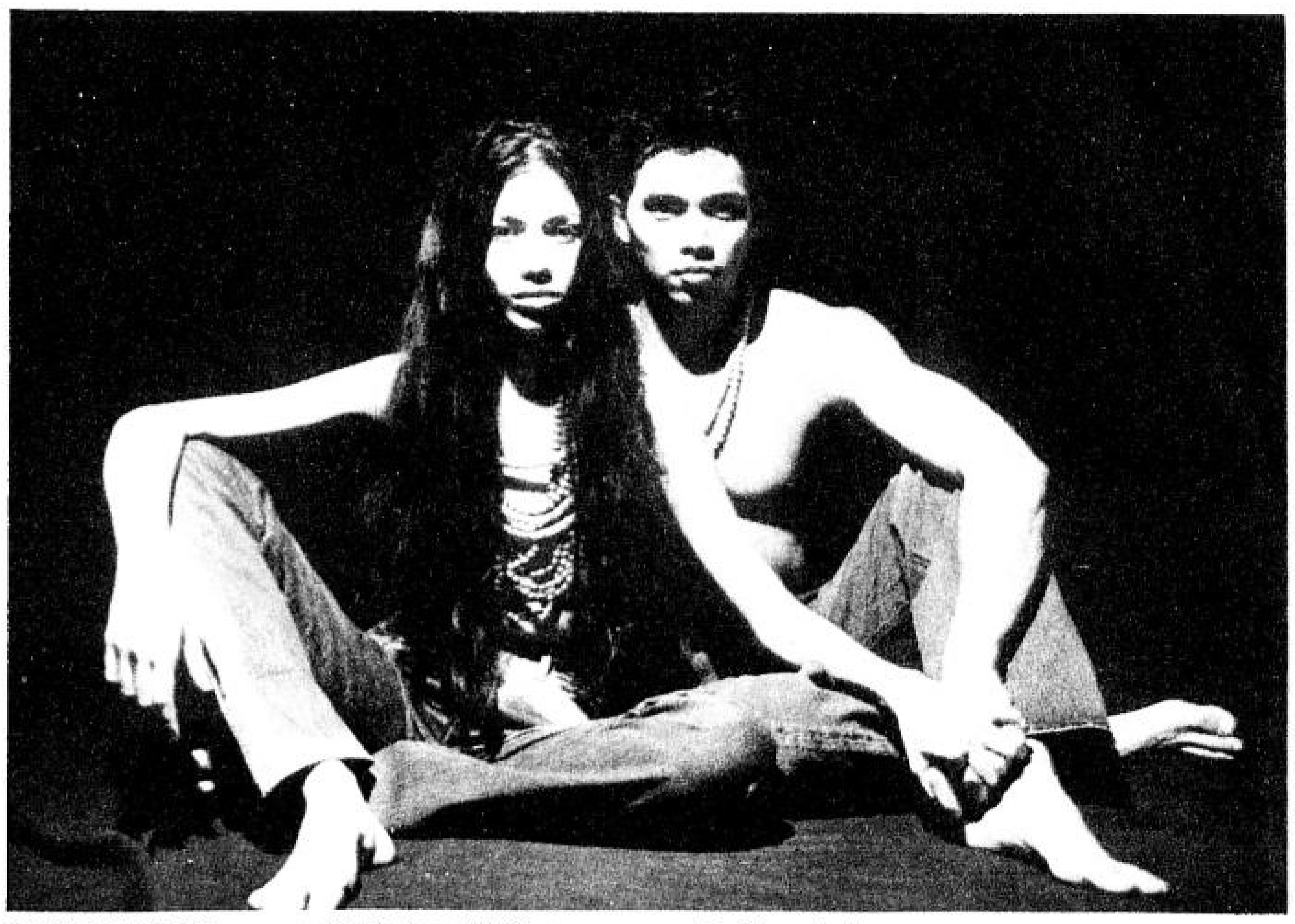
This article was condensed from http://lists.village.virginia.edu/lists_archive/sixties-1/2703.html



MIKEY wears a studded, bull-denim jacket and sand-blasted denims. Marjorie or 2tay wears a printed brushstroke T-shirt and sand-blasted fuchsia denims.



DENIM IS ANDROGYNOUS. Guess who are wearing the dirty denims and the sand-blasted yellow denims?

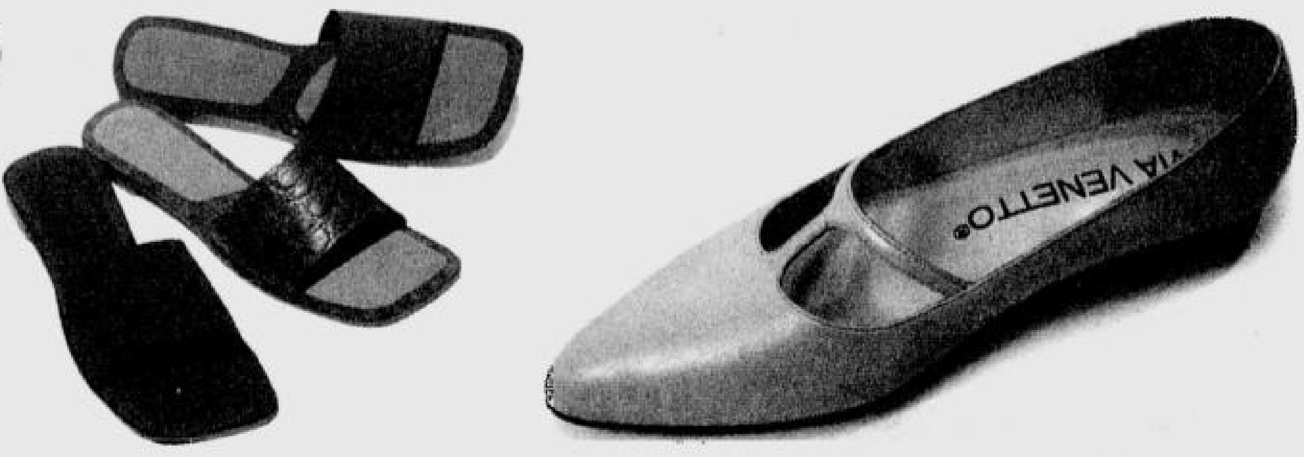


GOING HIPPIE. Mikey wears dirty denims while 2tay wears corroded vintage denims.

CLOTHES: REPLAY
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY PETER URBI
MAKEUP: MAKE UP FOR EVER, CINDERELLA
STYLIST: PEPSI HERRERA
MODELS: MARJORIE "2TAY" MARISTELA AND MIKEY MONTES OF CAL CARRIE
SPECIAL THANKS TO JOEY ESPINO OF CAL CARRIE

Freshen up

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA



KEEP your feet from sweating in open-toed styles. Step into Via Venetto's orchid step-ins. You can also opt for the slides in mock crocodile skin. As a dressier alternative, Via Venetto also has something in Italian kidskin with a dancing shoe-type design.

DENMAN'S hairbrush has strong bristles that massage the scalp without hurting one's hair.

SMELL This from Beauty Bar comes in unconventional scents such as bubblegum.

HYGEIA underwear is made from special materials that protect the wearer from bacteria.

Value shopping at its best

HOW do you stretch your peso when it comes to your shopping blues? Well, it's easy. All you have to do is come and visit The P99 Store.

The P99 Store is a total-concept store aimed for members of the family. It boasts of an interesting mix of products for Daddy, Mommy, Kuya, Ate, the kids and even for toddlers.

But what makes shopping at The P99 Store more exciting is that anything you like to buy is worth only P99.

And to keep customers coming back all the time, various fashionable items are constantly updated and replaced to meet the demands of its bargain-hunters.

The P99 Store offers up-to-date styles and trends for ladies, men, children, teens, kids and babies.

Also available are gift items like fancy jewelry, accessories like sports bags, neckties, handkerchief, underwear, footwear, toys, pillows and many more.

Visit The P99 Store at Robinsons Galleria, Tutuban Center, Robinsons Place (Ermita and Imus), Ever Gotesco Commonwealth, Starmall, Grand Pavillion Mall (Biñan) and Festival Mall (Alabang).

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	Rome	Includes city tour.	US$ 1,097	US$ 69
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	Los Angeles - Disneyland	Includes 1-day pass to Disneyland or California Adventure.	US$ 1,033	US$ 65
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	Vancouver	Includes city tour.	US$ 977	US$ 61
STAR CRUISES⑥		*Enjoy upgrade of cabin accommodation up to Ocean View Stateroom with Balcony, with upgrade worth as much as US$ 110. All Star Cruises packages include 6 full-board meals per day, use of gym, jacuzzi & swimming pool, entrance to nightly shows and access to bars, disco and casinos. 3D/2N & 4D/3N cruises are available on Superstar Leo and Virgo.*		
	Hong Kong-South China Sea on SuperStar Leo	3D/2N cruise from Hong Kong to Haikou-Hainan Island or Xiamen, China and back to Hong Kong.	US$ 270	US$ 17
	Straits of Malacca on SuperStar Virgo	4D/3N cruise from Singapore to Phuket, Thailand on to Langkawi, Malaysia and back to Singapore.	US$ 420	US$ 26

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House of Travel Inc.
MONDIAL Tours & Travel 753-3374/753-3276 to 78
pan-pacific 243-6666/810-8551 to 56/521-3141 to 46 Cebu 254-0343 to 45
TRANSNATIONAL TRAVEL and TOURS, INC. Cebu 233-2754/233-2756
TRAVEL COUNSELLORS, INC. 815-4023/815-4025 816-6791 to 92 817-0112
Dominican Tour & Travel Agency, Inc. 818-2667/818-2774
HORIZON 521-2506/523-8637/523-8630/521-2697/523-2967 521-3324/526-4073/526-4075
KARILAGAN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS CORP. 840-2152 to 53/818-7926 to 37 752-2627 to 28/813-0937
MOTIVATION TOURS & TRAVEL CORPORATION 812-6051 to 54
TRADERS TRAVEL 241-5101 to 06/241-6260 241-6262/241-6264/241-6267
243-3888/243-3333

① Does not apply to Shell-Citibank MasterCard and SkyCard-Citibank MasterCard.
② For Gold cardholders and one companion only. Except for Citibank Cathay Pacific Gold VISA cardholders.
③ Terms & Conditions apply. Restrictions on tickets and tour packages apply. Black-out dates apply. Tour package rates are not applicable for conventions, events, and special holidays. Price indicated is for one adult passenger on economy airfare and does not include any tax or other fees. Land/tour arrangements based on twin-sharing. Price will be converted to Philippine Peso at the prevailing airline rate. All bookings are subject to availability and confirmation.
④ Monthly PayLite amount for 24 months. Minimum transaction of P 5,000 required.
⑤ Package valid for travel from 1 March to 30 June 2001. Refer to your travel agency for rates from 1-31 July 2001.
⑥ All cabin upgrades are subject to availability. Valid for sailing dates from 4 March to 20 June 2001 for SuperStar Leo and up to 23 May 2001 for SuperStar Virgo. Price indicated is for cruise only for 1 adult passenger in inside Stateroom cabin, twin-sharing.

Per DTI-NCR PERMIT [illegible] Series of 2001

CITIBANK

UP to hold seminar on kids with special needs

THE SPECIAL Education Area of the College of Education, University of the Philippines, in cooperation with the UP Special Education Council, will conduct a seminar-workshop on the theme: "From Segregation to Integration: Mainstreeming/ Inclusion of the Child with Special Needs in the Regular Class, on May 21-23, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Benitez Theater, College of Education, UP Diliman, QC. The seminar-workshop is open to SPED teachers, regular teachers, regular children, support-service givers such as occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists and psychologists, and other concerned individuals and professionals involved in the intervention of children with special needs. Resource persons and facilitators for the seminar-workshop are: Dr. Trinidad C. Baldo, Dr. Erlinda F. Camara, Prof. Rosario A. Aligada, Prof. Antonia A. Blanca Prof. Barbara F. David, Prof. Josefina S. Malibirap and Prof Ma. Salud. They are led by Dr. Edilberto Dizon, professor of Special Education and practicing SPED diagnostician-counselor. Call 725-8195.

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Promo Mechanics:

1. From April 15 to May 31, 2001, every single purchase of any Hawaiian Tropic product from any SM Health & Beauty outlet entitles you to join the promotion.
2. For each product you buy, you get to pick one (1) Scratch Card. You can pick out a maximum of three (3) scratch cards for every single sales transaction.
3. Surrender the card to the Hawaiian Tropic promo girl. The promo girl will validate your card and scratch out the back to see if you've won a prize which can be claimed instantly. Only an official Hawaiian Tropic promo girl or RMK Personal Care consultant can validate and scratch out a card and award a prize.
4. You could win any of the following instantly:
   a. A TRIP FOR TWO TO PEARL OF THE PACIFIC, BORACAY - Trips include 3 days/2 nights stay at Pearl of the Pacific Hotel in Boracay; airfare; transfers; breakfast only. This prize is tax free and transferable but not convertible to cash.
   b. 11 SUMMER GEAR PACKAGES - Each package includes boardshorts and bags from Nothing But Water, travelling bags from Jansport, Samsonite and Kickers.
   c. CONSOLATION PRIZES - Hawaiian Tropic beach balls, tank tops, inflatable cellphone holders, flashlights, bumper stickers and bookmarkers.
5. Prize a. can be claimed at the RMK head office: 3rd Floor Midland Buendia Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. Look for Ms. Raquel Somera or call 890 9703 loc. 227.
6. All employees of Rustan Marketing Corp., SM H&B, their advertising agency and sponsors as well as their families and relatives up to second degree consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

Per DOH - BFAD Permit # 0267 Series of 2001

Single and shopaholic

The agony of owning a maxed-out credit card when you're itching to buy, buy, buy

BY HARRIET ANN DY

Confessions of a Shopaholic
By Sophie Kinsella
Delta Books, 2001

REVIEW

I DON'T usually judge a book by its cover, but when I spotted Sophie Kinsella's "Confessions of a Shopaholic" behind the cash register at an upstate New York outlet bookstore, my bookworm instinct told me it would be a fun read.

As if the title itself wasn't enough of a come-on—a potent mix of fashion and shopping with a "Sex & the City" undertone—the bubble-gum pink, Cynthia Rowley-ish illustrations and the English literary flavor promised the perfect escapist material for my long flight back to Manila.

Bridget Jones syndrome

Call it the Bridget Jones syndrome, but it seems that books about the female singleton (usually a British magazine writer or a New York art dealer) seems to be peppering bookstores these days. At the Hong Kong airport, I was able to grab a copy of Candace Bushnell's "Four Blondes" from WHSmith. A bookshop in Pearson airport in Toronto peddled "Three Black Skirts: All You Need to Survive" by beauty editor Anna Johnson and "Ralph's Party" by Lisa Jewell. Even Cosco in the Mississauga suburb in Toronto carried "Just Friends," a novel about the escapades of Freya, a transplanted English art dealer living in Manhattan.

Needless to say, my foldable chocolate Longchamp tote was filled in no time with various titles of the fashionable British singleton kind. A word to the wise, however: Unless you really like a book or spot it in the sale bins of Barnes and Noble, it is more prudent to satisfy your printed fix at National Bookstore or PowerBooks.

Crash course

But back to Kinsella's opus. Reading, nay, breezing through the 310-page novel is like taking a crash course in what's hip in London. Her grocery list of shops is a definite guide for the aspiring stylesetter. From Boots Pharmacy ("Everyone needs shampoo," says protagonist and avowed shopaholic Rebecca Bloomwood) to Jigsaw to Denny and George, Kinsella takes us through the agony of owning maxed-out credit cards.

Proper irony dictates that Rebecca be a financial reporter for what else, but Successful Saving magazine. "People tell you that they 'fell into' personal finance," she explains. "What they mean is... they applied for jobs at The Times and The Express and Marie Claire and Vogue... and all they got back was 'piss off.' "

Comments like these give the reader a slice of Kinsella's background as an ex-financial journalist. An author after my own shopping impulse, her portrayal of a journalist's life—from yawn-inducing press conferences to power PRs—is nothing short of accurate. Except that, in Rebecca's business circles, there is actually a straight, good-looking, very successful male PR by the name of Luke Brandon, while many of the local power PRs here are women, but that's getting ahead of the story.

Taebo-and-spa lifestyle

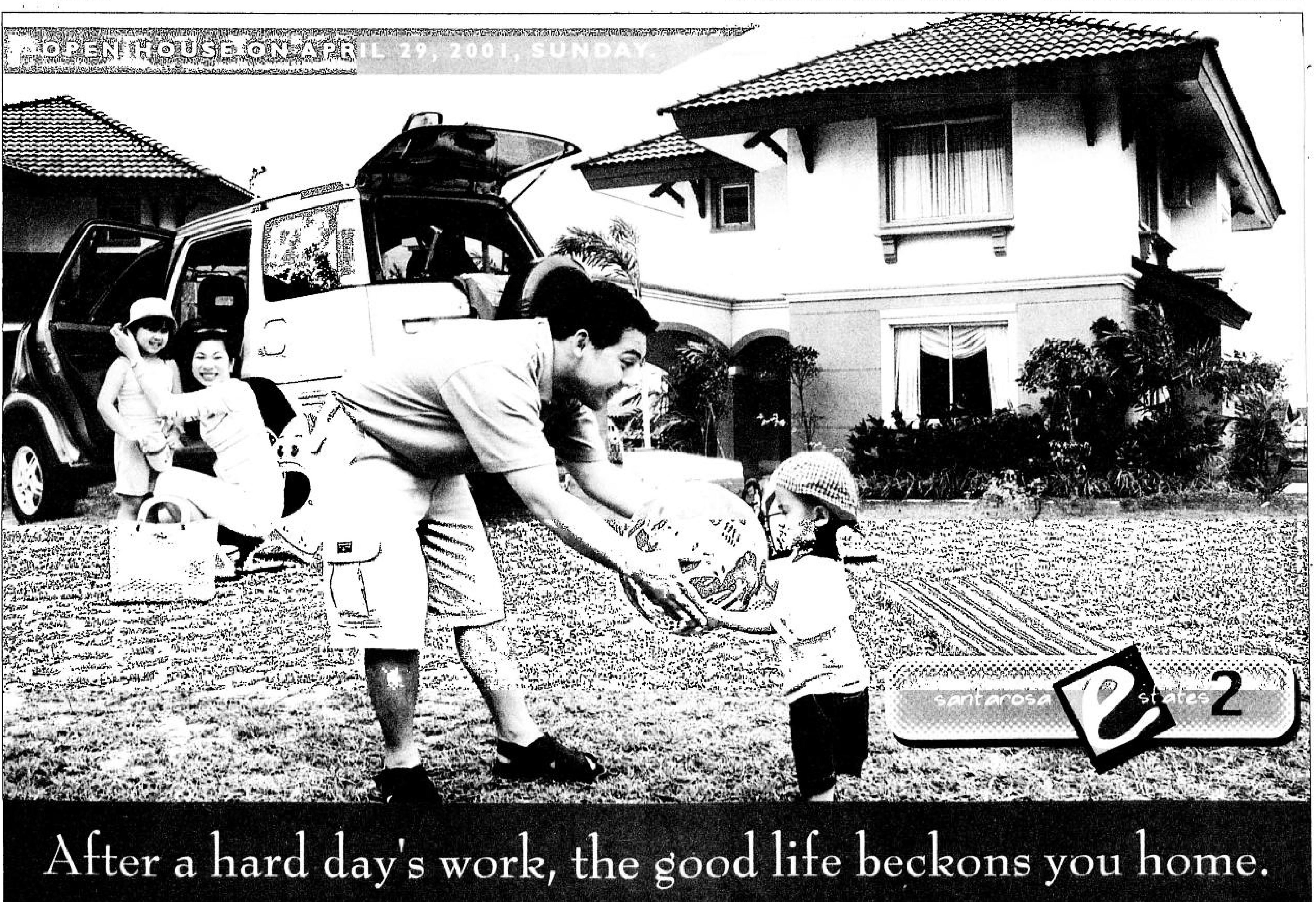
The feedback on Amazon.com unanimously say that "Confessions" deftly takes the reader through the shopaholic mentality. After all, who else would be embarrassed to lug around 'sale' shopping bags? ("What's the point of having a posh bag with 'sale' splashed over it?") Or, would actually admit to being a fan of advantage points or reward points? ("Aren't they a wonderful invention? If you spend enough, you can get really good prizes...")

I'm sure you'll agree that "it's a lifestyle" is fast becoming the millennial cliché. But Kinsella hits the bull's eye when she writes "drinking coffee out of an Alessi flask [is] much cooler than a takeaway cappuccino." Talk about a Starbucks lifestyle. Or, a taebo-and-spa lifestyle. Or, why concept boutiques and shopping escapes like Essenses in Rustan's, Wish at the Shangri-La arcade and Al Estilo at Rockwell are germinating around the city.

All these, plus the fact that Kinsella throws in a dash of Mark Darcy-ish love interest (Bridget Jones fans, you know who I'm talking about here) and a whole lotta humor, make Rebecca Bloomwood the consumerist heroine. Although I haven't seen this book locally, Amazon.com is selling it for only $8.76, almost 20 percent off the $10.95, plus taxes that I paid for it.

Now if you are like Becky, that saves you $2, enough for a bottle of shampoo. After all, like she says, everybody needs shampoo.

E-mail the author at chinachix@hotmail.com



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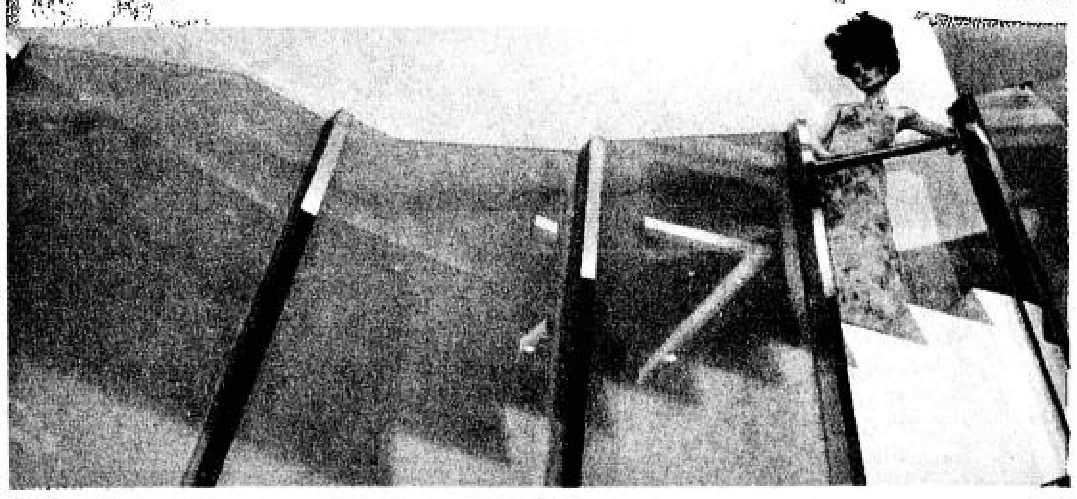

EAZEL Don makes a dramatic descent on the Moderne staircase of Astoria Plaza

Consistently and softly feminine

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Bobot Meru
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY TONTON SANTOS

IN A WELL-APPOINTED unit in Astoria Plaza, a pictorial is going on. Model Eazel Don leans against the wall, clad in a summery yellow asymmetric crop top and pants. The corsage of chiffon cabbage roses and ribbons offsets the simplicity of Efren Ocampo's two-piece outfit. He examines the look and shakes his head. It's a chic design, but it won't sell. How many women are as skinny as a model to look good in that outfit? How many times can the woman wear that outfit without people noticing the repeat? When she changes into an orange off-the-shoulder mini, Ocampo instinctively knows the design will click.

In local RTW, the hard-nosed middle-class consumer poses a challenge to the designer. On the one hand, she wants an outfit that is simple and can go a long way on her hard-earned money. On the other, she wants to see something new on the rack every fortnight. How can he give design value if the customer is willing to spend only less than P2,000?

Efren Ocampo of SM Boutique Square has succeeded in creating a loyal following. Since most RTW clothes tend to look alike in their simplicity, Ocampo stands out for the softness and femininity of his clothes.

Ocampo learned his craft in New York. When he came back 21 years ago, he started doing custom-made clothes. The business had its frustrations, such as customers coming late for fittings or not showing up at all. They also dictated how they wanted to look. When the economy took a nosedive after the Aquino asassination in 1983, Ocampo had no customers. Suddenly there was no lifestyle, so to speak. With the bleak outlook, nobody wanted to spend.

Fast rise

The enterprising Ocampo went to SM Shoemart to show his samples. The buyers immediately snapped up his red linen blouse with a white organdy collar and matching red skirt. He started under the label SM Vogue in August 1983. By Christmas of that year, he was given the go-ahead to use his name as label. That was the fastest promotion for a designer.

Ocampo nixed the notion that it's tough for a designer to get his foot on the door of a depart-

CONSISTENTLY/ p.E6

CITRUS crepe asymmetric mini

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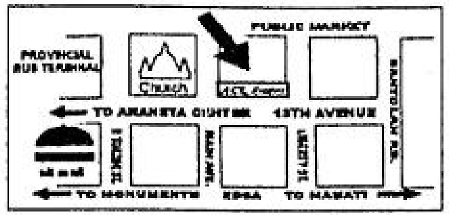

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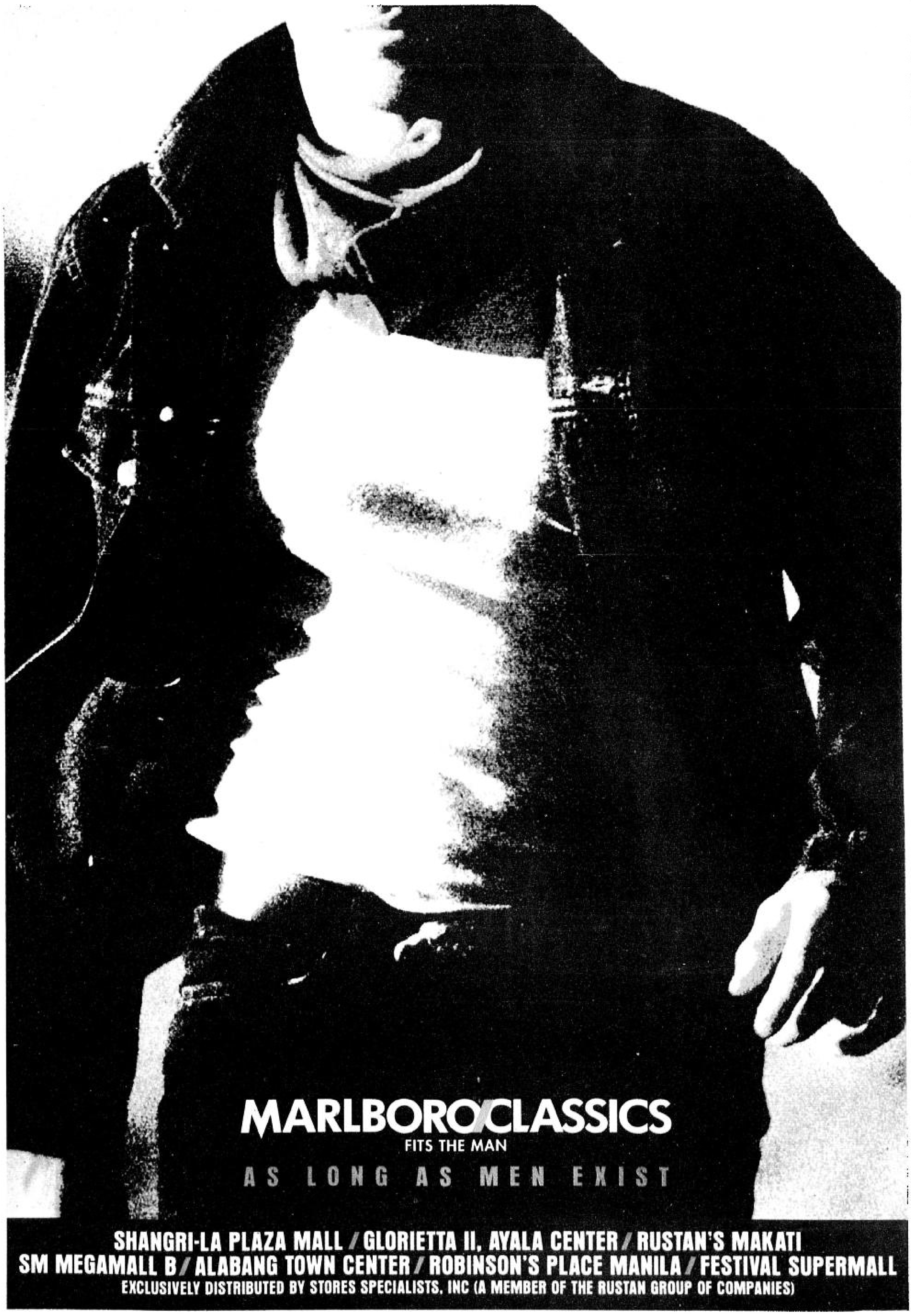

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SOPHISTICATED. The eyes are highlighted by Pinkadelic in three textures—matte, shimmery and glossy. Pearlized scales called Gommetes adorn the eyes. The lips are painted in fuchsia and toped with lip gloss.

MAKEUP for a natural look. Makeup artist Marissa de los Reyes brushes Sugar, a warm pink shade, over the eyelids.

WITH AN APPLICATOR, Blanc Neige, a light-reflecting powder, is used as a highlighter under the browbone.

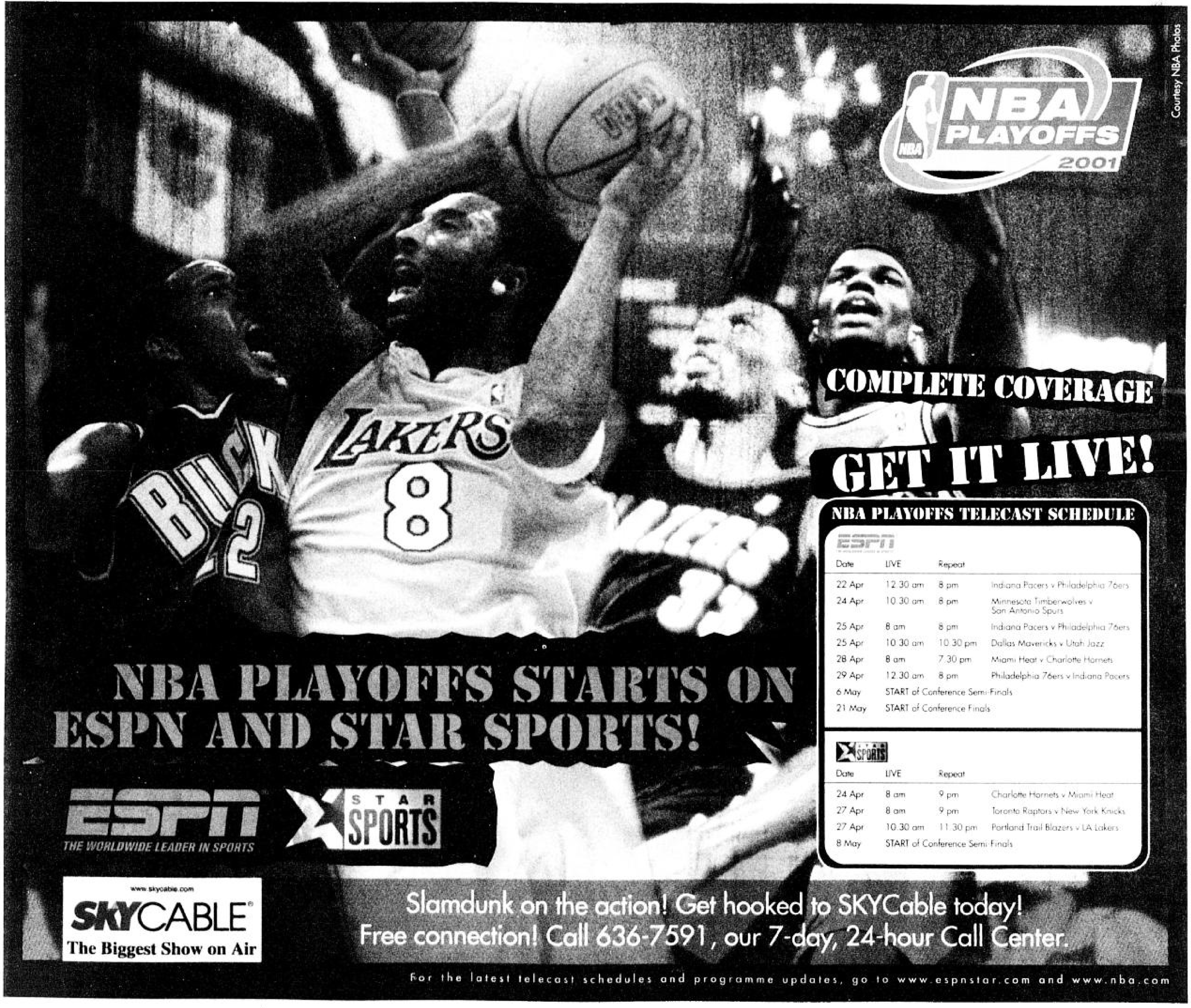
Pretty in pink

PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

FOR SUMMER, most makeup brands are awash with soft pinks. To stand out from the rest, Fred Farrugia, the creative artist behind Lancôme's look, comes up with stronger shades of pink, bordering on fuchsia and magenta. But for the makeup shy, there are also light shades of pink.

Lancôme will hold a skin-care workshop at Rustan's Makati's boardroom today and tomorrow at 2 p.m.

FOR BULGING eyelids, brush the darker color from the outer corner of the eye and lighten up toward the inner corner.


Courtesy NBA Photos

NBA PLAYOFFS 2001

COMPLETE COVERAGE

GET IT LIVE!

NBA PLAYOFFS TELECAST SCHEDULE

ESPN

Date	LIVE	Repeat	
22 Apr	12.30 am	8 pm	Indiana Pacers v Philadelphia 76ers
24 Apr	10.30 am	8 pm	Minnesota Timberwolves v San Antonio Spurs
25 Apr	8 am	8 pm	Indiana Pacers v Philadelphia 76ers
25 Apr	10.30 am	10.30 pm	Dallas Mavericks v Utah Jazz
28 Apr	8 am	7.30 pm	Miami Heat v Charlotte Hornets
29 Apr	12.30 am	8 pm	Philadelphia 76ers v Indiana Pacers
6 May	START of Conference Semi-Finals		
21 May	START of Conference Finals		

STAR SPORTS

Date	LIVE	Repeat	
24 Apr	8 am	9 pm	Charlotte Hornets v Miami Heat
27 Apr	8 am	9 pm	Toronto Raptors v New York Knicks
27 Apr	10.30 am	11.30 pm	Portland Trail Blazers v LA Lakers
8 May	START of Conference Semi-Finals		

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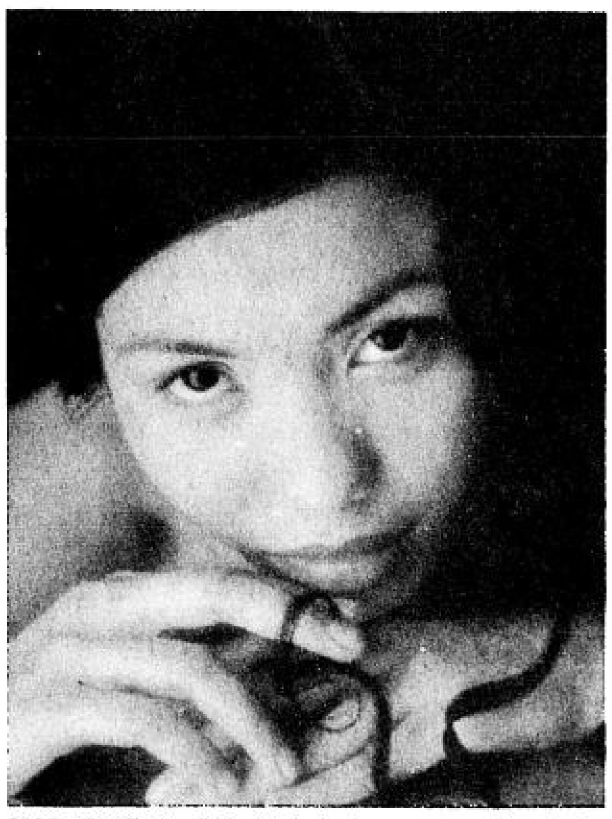


MARJORIE "2tay" Maristela looks summery, thanks to artist Peter Urbi. PHOTO: RAYMOND LAUCHENGCO

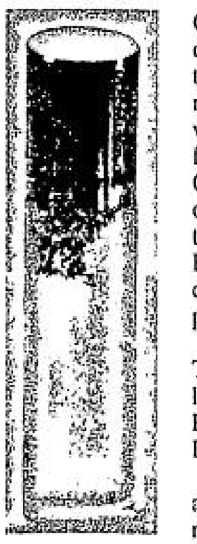
Matte forever

IF you wear makeup for 16 hours a day or need to look great in a pictorial, Make Up For Ever (Mufe) will stay put. The foundation glides easily on the skin and won't wear off. Mufe has just launched three ultra-matte products to highlight the dramatic cheekbones, big eyes and wet lips. Unlike the old formulas, these products are not cakey and heavy.

The Mat Velvet is a long-lasting matte foundation that's oil-free and has sun protection. The formula controls moisture especially in a humid climate when the skin gets oily. The pigments merge with the skin's own. Rouge Pincea is a matte lipstick that stays all day. Crayoun Joues is an all-purpose crayon that can be used on the eyes, lips and cheeks.

Make Up For Ever is available at Cinderella stores in SM Megamall, Glorietta 3 and Greenbelt.

Avon perfume wins beauty award



GLOBAL beauty company Avon won this year's coveted Cosmetics Executive Women (CEW) Beauty Award for its perfume, Incandessence. Avon's new fragrance ("inspired by the brilliance in every woman") was cited as the Best New Women's Perfume by the prestigious US-based group, tagged the Oscars in beauty. The CEW annually recognizes outstanding product innovation in the beauty industry. For 1999, Avon was also a winner of a Best in Beauty Award from CEW for its revolutionary skin care product, Anew Luminosity Brightening Complex.

"We are proud of these award-winning products. They reflect Avon's commitment to delivering quality products for women all over the world," said Paul Lancos, VP for marketing for Avon Cosmetics Inc.

Avon is the world's leading direct seller of beauty and related products, with $5.3 billion in annual revenues. It markets to women in 135 countries through its 3 million Avon ladies. Product lines include such recognizable brands as Anew, Avon Color, Avon Basics and Skin-So-Soft. It also markets an extensive line of intimate apparel, fashion jewelry, gifts and collectibles. Visit www.avon.com.

Makeup for the optimist

DALIA Guerrero in the pink of health MAKEUP BY TOTO PHOTO BY THE SUN

CLINIQUE springs to the rescue with Look on the Bright Side, a collection with translucent colors like coral and pink for lips, cheeks and nails. For eyes, complement the look with Smudgesicles in Bare Bronze, a shimmery nude, and Pillowtalk, a soft pink. For nails and toes, polish off the look with Glosswear Nail Enamel in Wild Delight, a coral berry mix, and Orchid Blast, a deep fuchsia. High Impact Eye Shadow is ready to wear in violets, pinks, tawnies and nudes.

Clinique also introduces the High Impact Eye Shadow, which gives an intense color in one swift stroke. It contains special triple-treated pigments with a creamy texture that has a silky feel in application.

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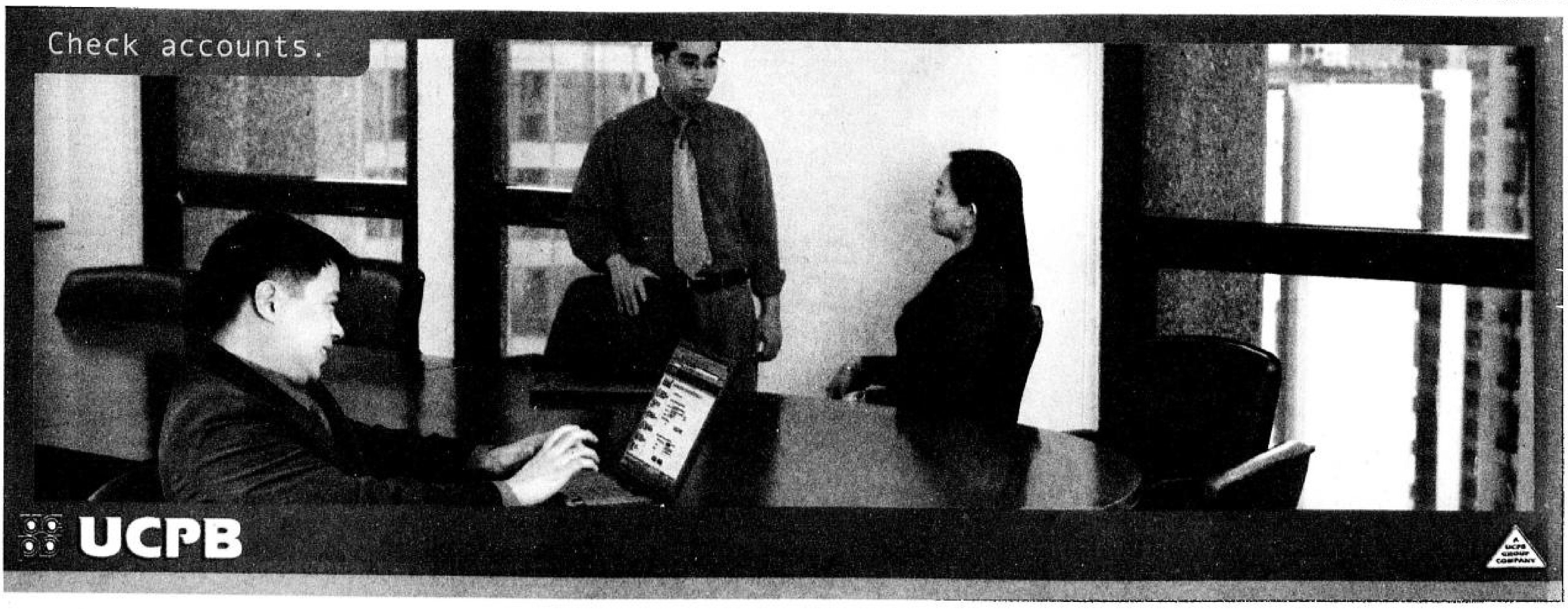

Check accounts.
UCPB

PETER Bacanovic on the very brownstone setting for "Breakfast at Tiffany's"

ALEXANDRE Von Furstenburg, son of designer Diane and Prince Egon Von Furstenburg, and wife Alexandra

TARA and Michael Rockefeller, whose surname evokes political involvement, patronage, philanthropy

AMANDA Hearst of the publishing giant Hearst Corp.

Meet New York's high-flyers

Bright Young Things
By Brooke de Ocampo
Photographs by Jonathan Becker
Assouline Publishing, 2000, 192 pages

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

REVIEW

THE TERM "Bright Young Thing" was coined to describe a glittering set of 1920s Londoners like the Mitford sisters and Evelyn Waugh, author of "Brideshead Revisited." In this colorful coffee-table book, author Brooke de Ocampo, "a card-carrying BYT herself," finds inspiration from "Vogue's Book of Houses, Gardens, People," which was published in 1963, featuring people like Doris Duke and Pauline de Rothschild, photographed by Horst at their homes. De Ocampo thought it would be divine to introduce a new generation of Bright Young Things (all Manhattanites, of course) and have us mere mortals take a peek into their utterly fabulous lives. And while their homes are indeed amazing, and the colorful photographs are a joy to pour over, the over-all result seems to read like one big joke.

According to William Norwich's introduction, these individuals are a new generation of meritocrats as opposed to aristocrats, and that they "practice stylish politics of inclusion." Apparently to this set, the term *noblesse oblige* means "mixing a GAP T-shirt with a Bill Blass ball gown" or "turning a seven-room Park Avenue co-op into a Downtown-like loft space." It is ironic that Plum Sykes is grouped with the very people she pokes fun at in her "Fashion Fiction" cartoon. Aside from trust funds that could feed a whole country, these people also have great ancestry. They have last names like Hearst, Rockefeller; even the musician Moby is a descendant of Herman Melville.

> There's a strange sense of masochistic pleasure in reading this book. Although the wanton display of wealth is disgusting, you'll find it entertaining

ESTEE Lauder scion Aerin Lauder

Ridiculous

Interspersed into photographs of their beautiful homes is a Proustian questionnaire patterned after Vanity Fair's. This has to be the most ridiculous part of the book. For instance, Sebastian Guinness spends three months of the year in his New York City loft and the rest of the year he lives in a former monastery on a hilltop in Spain. To the question "Who is your favorite hero in real life?," he answers. "President Wahid." This answer juxtaposed with a picture of him in *ikat* pants and a close-up of his *kris* collection. Easy for him to trendily seem so "Indonesian" when he is thousands of miles away from the country in serious turmoil.

Soledad Twombly's principle (shouldn't it be principal?) defect is that she "gets bored easily." This from someone who jets between Rome and New York on a regular basis. And for Valesca and Mathias Guerrand-Hermes (as in Kelly bag), the lowest depth of misery is "staying in New York over the weekend." That is in their gorgeous art deco Hotel Des Artistes, Central Park West apartment. Well, some rich guy, whose claim to fame is that his apartment was the location for the iconoclastic film "Breakfast at Tiffany's," says that for him, the lowest depth of misery is a destructive dry cleaner—I don't know which is worse.

Of course, when answering such questionnaires, people try to be witty, and many of these answers attempt to be tongue-in-cheek. However, their WASP-y, upper-crust snobbishness somehow manages to creep into the words. Sloan Lindemann admits that her miniature Dachshund, Lucy, winters in Palm Beach, only flies private, and doesn't eat scraps. A far cry from the original, more erudite Bright Young Things.

Lick her wounds

According to the New York Observer, Brooke de Ocampo has moved to London to lick her wounds after the backlash this little project caused. The haphazard, thoughtless conception of what could have been a very interesting book is obviously the reason.

Another thing these BYTs seem to have in common is that they all met in Brown and they all inherited unbelievable art collections. Twenty-six-year-old Jane Lauder, heiress to the Estee Lauder empire, has the likes of Matisse, Jasper Johns, Warhol and De Kooning on her walls.

Various quotes and witticisms related to style are thrown about after every few homes or so. The wisdom of Tom Wolfe, Dominick Dunne, Andre Leon Talley and their ilk are peppered throughout. But despite an intent to mean otherwise, the book seems to say that to have style, one must have a really nice apartment filled with art inherited from one's family, and various tokens collected from extensive travels in the far east.

And still all the money and exposure in the world cannot seem to buy taste. Alexandra Von Furstenberg, one of the Miller sisters, requires shoes, even spotless Manolos, to be taken off before entering her home. She claims to be a stickler for cleanliness but this sounds like justification for acute tackiness. Why doesn't she just cover her carpet with plastic while she's at it?

MARINA Rust, scion of retailer Marshall Field, and Ian Connor

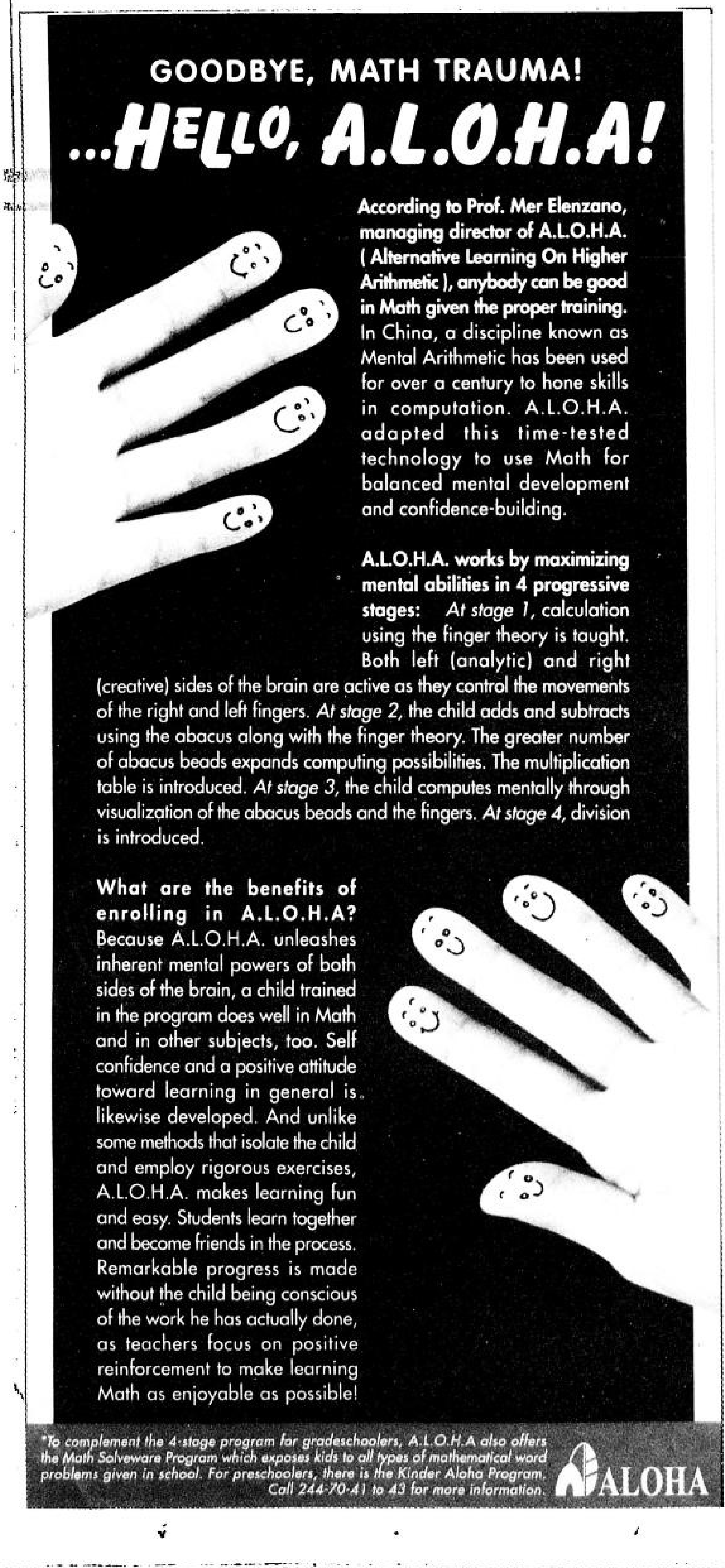
Inequities

However, there is something deliciously voyeuristic about the book. And although their homes and lives are a stark testament to the inequities of the world, these people do exist and it is entertaining to read about them. If you have seen the movie "Cruel Intentions" or "Six Degrees of Separation," they accurately depict the lives of these upper-crust New Yorkers. On the other hand, there is also a sense of strange masochistic pleasure in reading the book. That is, once you get over your disgust at the wanton display of such wealth, you want to start from the beginning. Mesmerized by the huge photographs of these beautiful people and their wonderful homes.

It makes one think, ahhh… to be the son of Ralph and Ricky Lauren, or to be the glamorous Marina Rust, Vogue writer and granddaughter of Marshal Fields; to dine at Moomba twice a week and to worry about what to wear to the glamorous Fricke Institute Ball… Yes, these people are shallow, and a coffee-table book on their lives is egotistical. But all things said, I admit envying them a little and, yes, I covet what they have.

PATRICIA Herrera, daughter of designer Carolina Herrera

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com



GOODBYE, MATH TRAUMA!
…HELLO, A.L.O.H.A!

According to Prof. Mer Elenzano, managing director of A.L.O.H.A. (Alternative Learning On Higher Arithmetic), anybody can be good in Math given the proper training. In China, a discipline known as Mental Arithmetic has been used for over a century to hone skills in computation. A.L.O.H.A. adapted this time-tested technology to use Math for balanced mental development and confidence-building.

A.L.O.H.A. works by maximizing mental abilities in 4 progressive stages: *At stage 1,* calculation using the finger theory is taught. Both left (analytic) and right (creative) sides of the brain are active as they control the movements of the right and left fingers. *At stage 2,* the child adds and subtracts using the abacus along with the finger theory. The greater number of abacus beads expands computing possibilities. The multiplication table is introduced. *At stage 3,* the child computes mentally through visualization of the abacus beads and the fingers. *At stage 4,* division is introduced.

What are the benefits of enrolling in A.L.O.H.A? Because A.L.O.H.A. unleashes inherent mental powers of both sides of the brain, a child trained in the program does well in Math and in other subjects, too. Self confidence and a positive attitude toward learning in general is likewise developed. And unlike some methods that isolate the child and employ rigorous exercises, A.L.O.H.A. makes learning fun and easy. Students learn together and become friends in the process. Remarkable progress is made without the child being conscious of the work he has actually done, as teachers focus on positive reinforcement to make learning Math as enjoyable as possible!

**To complement the 4-stage program for gradeschoolers, A.L.O.H.A also offers the Math Solveware Program which exposes kids to all types of mathematical word problems given in school. For preschoolers, there is the Kinder Aloha Program. Call 244-70-41 to 43 for more information.*

ALOHA

Skin care for women who rage against age

WHOEVER says that consumerism belongs to the youth must be kidding. In this era of age defiance and generation flex, the skin-care industry has been flooded with products to help baby boomers age gracefully.

Women are demanding products that not only moisturize the skin but also change the texture. Rustan's has recently introduced La Prairie's Age Management Retexturizing Body Booster, a body care product for women who want to "de-age" their skin. It's a spinoff from the Age Management Retexturizing Booster for the face, a gel serum that contains potent doses of alpha and beta hydroxy acids. The acids exfoliate and decrease the fine lines and wrinkles caused by environmental aggression. The aloe vera gel base prevents the sting from the acids. There's a slight difference between the face and body formulations since the face has a softer skin while the body has more sweat glands.

After a week, the Body Booster relieves dryness and itching and keeps the skin's suppleness.

These products contain La Prairie's Cellular Complex, a patented formula, restores the function of the cells, speeds up their metabolism and the skin's ability to repair itself. The Body Booster enables the skin to increase its ability to absorb and retain moisture. The botanical extracts help to firm up slackened skin.

La Prairie's products come from the heritage of the Clinic La Prairie in Switzerland. It's been the pioneer in antiaging therapy. Since 1982, Laboratoires La Prairie has not been a part of Clinic La Prairie. However, it continues to develop skincare treatments that correct existing—and future—damage to the skin and create products that help women cope with their skin's aging process.

La Prairie is the most expensive brand in the market because of its advancement in technology. The cheapest product is the basic skin cleanser, which costs P2,350. The Skin Caviar, made from the protein of sturgeon caviar eggs, is the biggest seller and the most expensive at P15,000 a pop. It provides an instant glow and instantly firms up the skin.

la prairie
la prairie

APPLY these products before the moisturizer.

Acid hair colorant that's safe for the user

SCHWARZKOPF, a global hair-care manufacturer, introduced Igora Personality, the first acid color treatment in the Philippines and one of the few brands available in the world.

The ammonia-free product line is the latest big hit in Europe as it not only delivers maximum gentleness to the hair, it also complements the natural pH value of the skin due to its low pH value of 6.8. This makes it very easy and gentle on the hair's cuticle. And with the natural protein-building block Serine that goes inside the hair, Igora Personality not only strengthens the hair but improves its elasticity as well. The end result is a healthy, vibrant shine and noticeably supple and easy-to-comb hair.

Igora Personality likewise assures maximum color brilliance, creative possibilities and individual hues with its 30 basic shades and five reflective additives of red, blue, copper, gold and violet. The color palette ranges from natural shades and warm colors in brown, beige, and gold to bright red and violet—just about any color you want to match your personality.

Igora Personality is so easy to apply that it would only take your hairdresser 15 minutes to have the hair color of your choice.

All these advantages make Igora Personality the ideal professional color treatment.

The new Igora Personality is available from your Schwarzkopf Professional hairdressers for use in the salon.

Schwarzkopf Professional is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Top Style Marketing Inc.

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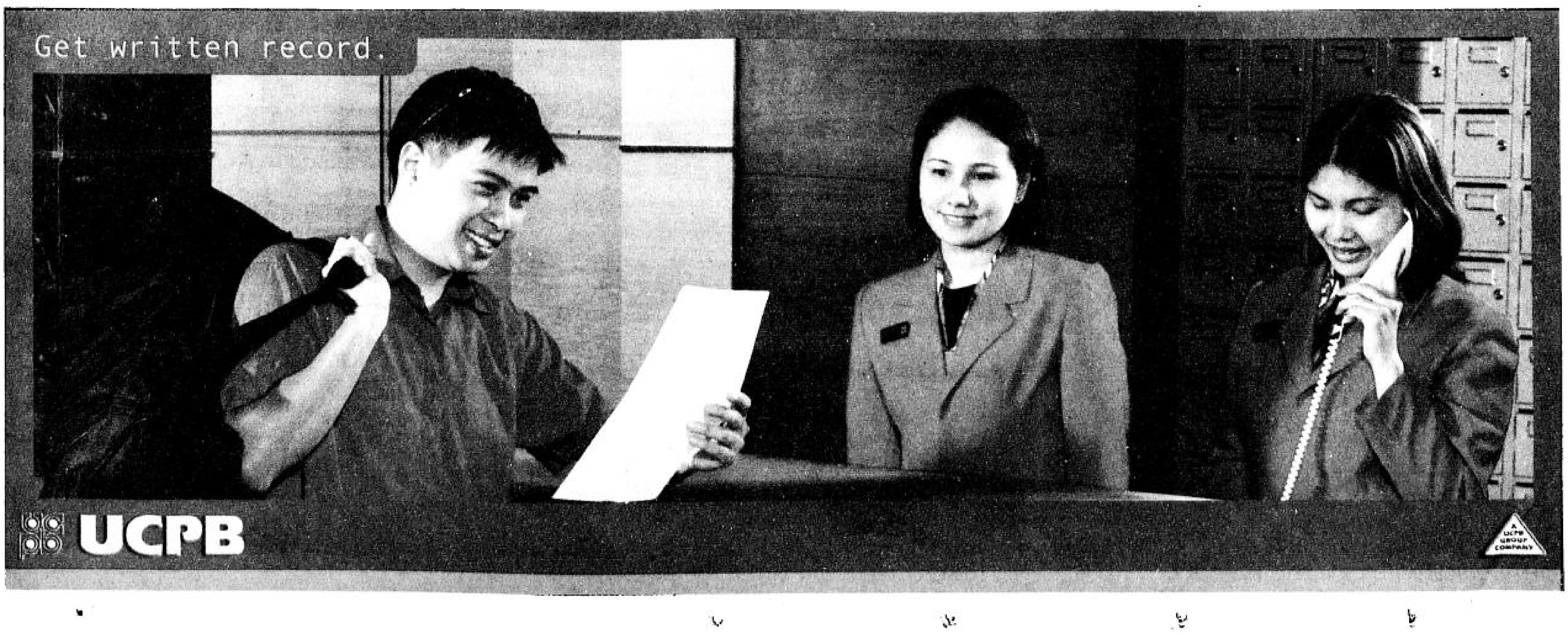

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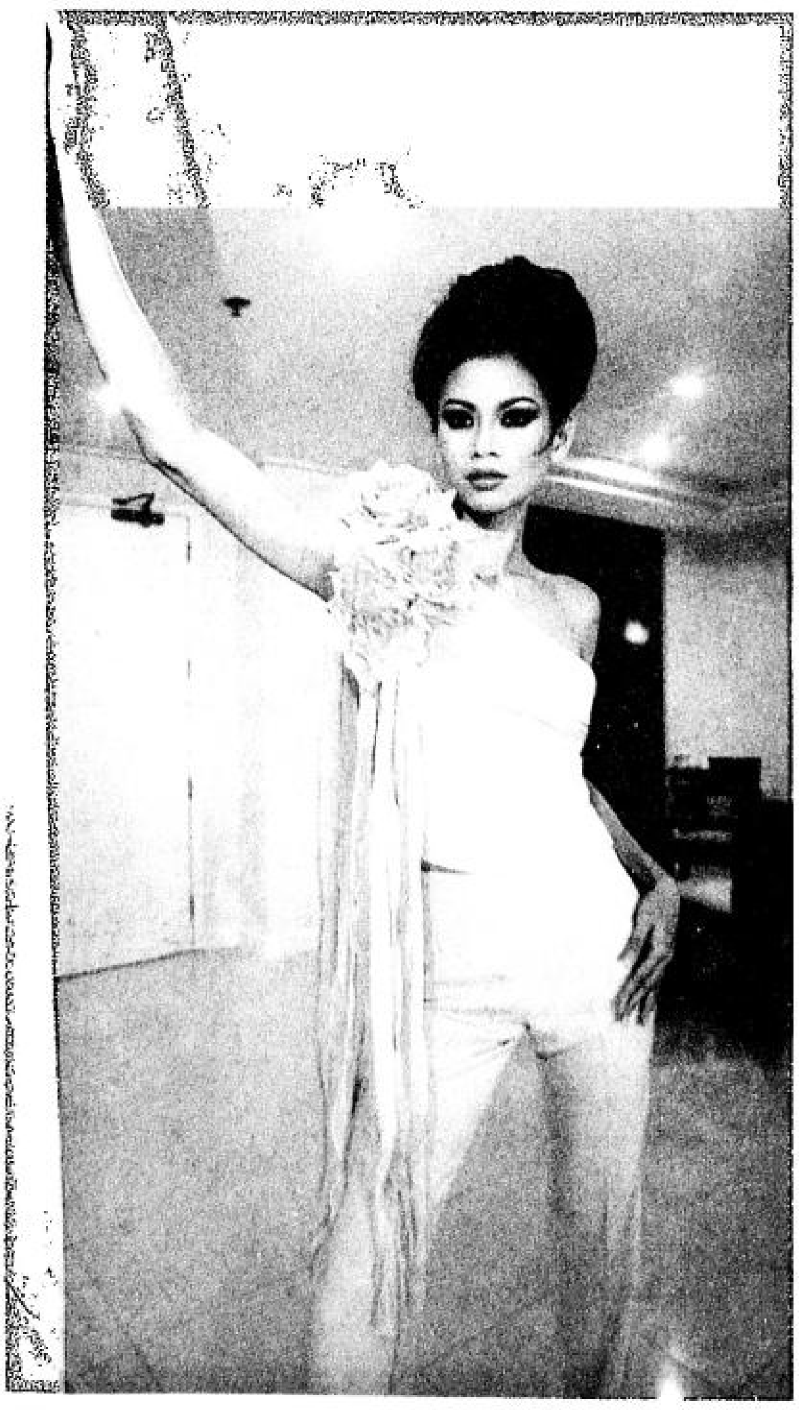
CHIFFON gown with train, encrusted with beads



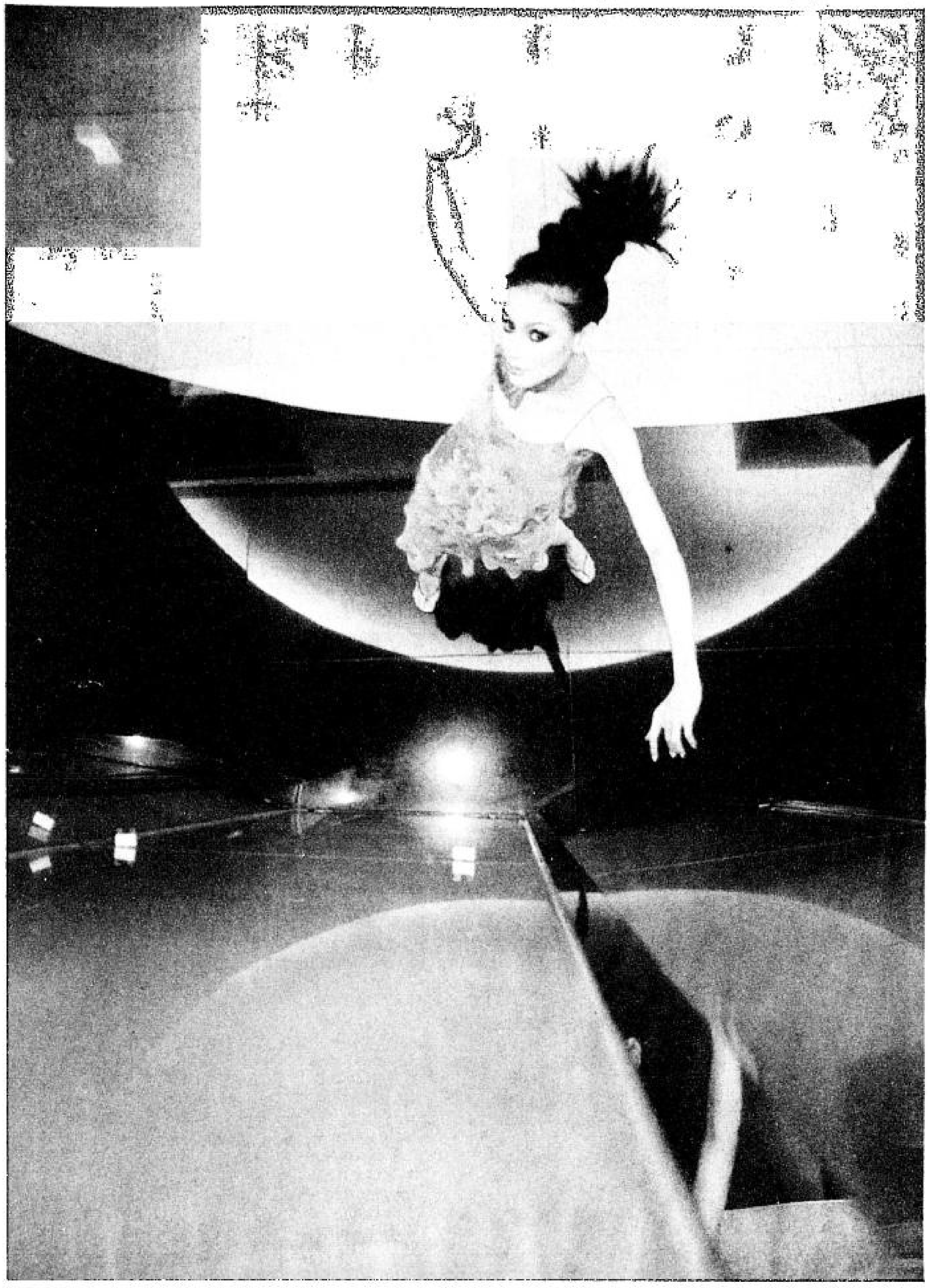
OFF-THE-SHOULDER blouse and crepe pants

Sophistication marks Efren Ocampo's designs. Women who wear his clothes are reserved and snub seasonal fads

HAIR AND MAKEUP
BY ERIC MANINGAT

LOCATION:
ASTORIA PLAZA, ORTIGAS

SPECIAL THANKS
TO ODETTE AGUILAR
AND JOEY ENRIQUEZ



CHIFFON bias-cut blouse and skirt

Consistently and softly feminine

(From page E1)

ment store. It's not getting in that's hard, it's sustaining the sales, he says. Every year, the store increases the designers' sales target. Despite the pressure to maintain sales, Ocampo felt comfortable with the RTW game. The customer either loved the clothes or didn't.

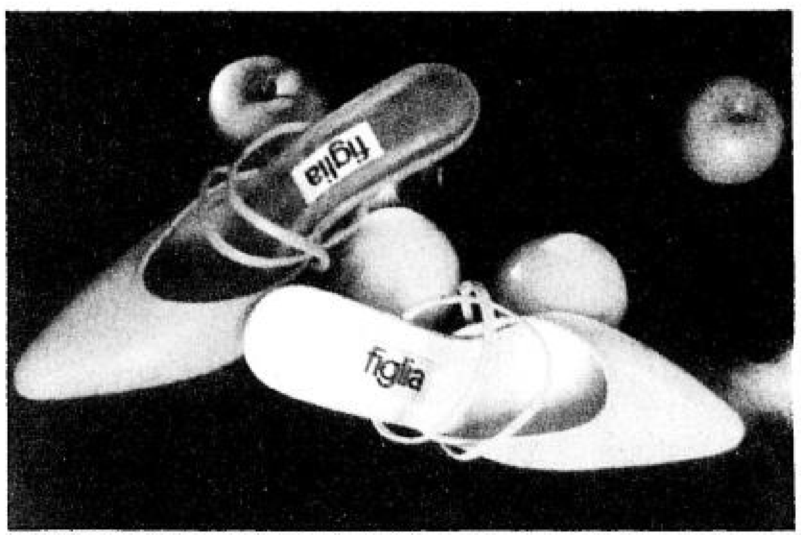
Since SM Boutique Square didn't have a line for party dresses, Ocampo established a niche in eveningwear. They were a reflection of his lifestyle. In the '80s and early '90s, Ocampo savored the nightlife. Embellishment and lush fabrics characterized his evening clothes. Some of them were dramatic and dazzling. Over time, as his life became simpler, so did his clothes. For leisure he'd rather play tennis.

He keeps perfecting his cuts and trying new fabrics. He believes that clean silhouettes are made more attractive by the right accessories just like the clothes, accessories and shoes made especially for the INQUIRER pictorial. For summer he created bias tops and skirts, spaghetti-strapped blouses and crop tops.

"I'm trying to make a bias skirt that has no bulk," he says.

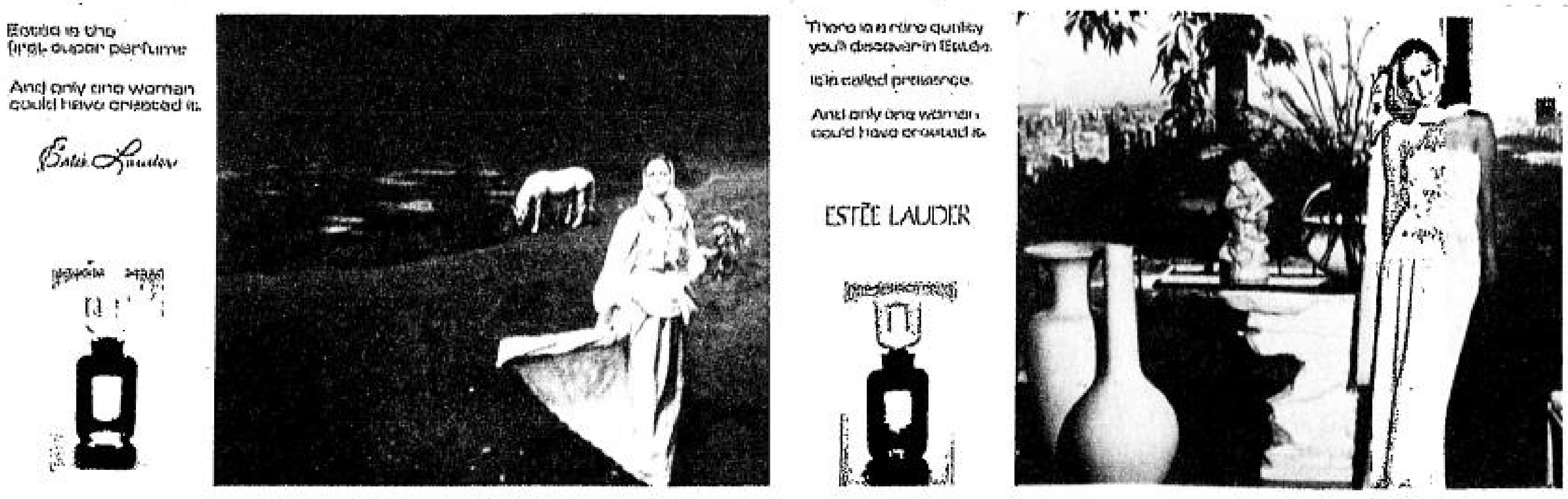
Sophistication encompasses Ocampo's designs. Women who wear his clothes are reserved and snub seasonal fads. He believes in consistency, not fashion.

Sign of maturity? "Age is an attitude," he replies, then adds, "I'm sure!"



POINTED VAMPS ARE BACK. Kidskin mules made for INQUIRER by Figlia.

CHIFFON mini with glass beads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And only one woman could have created it.
Estée Lauder
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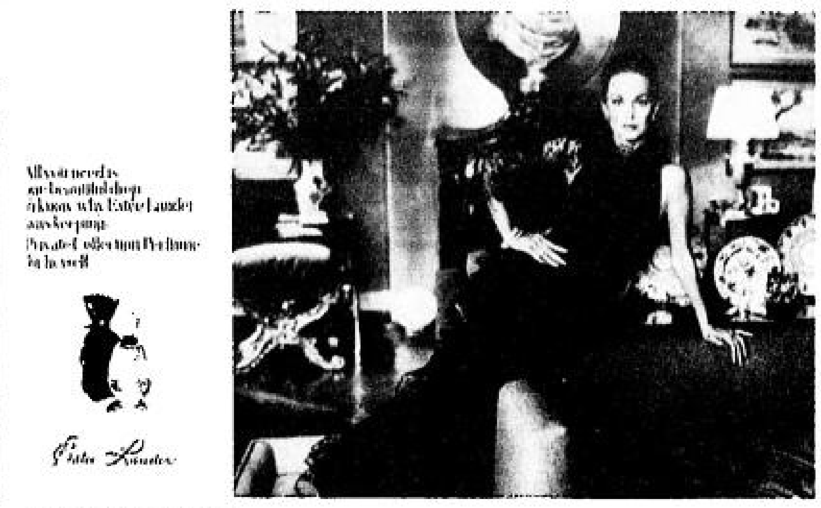
It is called presence.
And only one woman could have created it.
ESTĒE LAUDER

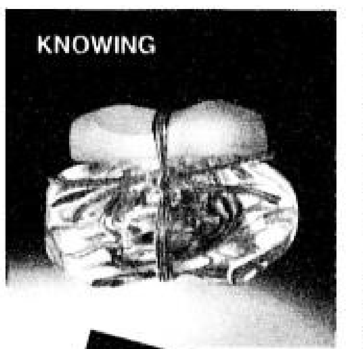
ESTEE Lauder's ad campaign in the '70s and the '80s project the fomal and elegant woman.



PRIVATE Collection

Perfumes now among feminine essentials

FRAGRANCES have been part of people's lives as early as biblical times, usually taking the form of incense. The word perfume, in fact, is derived from the Latin *per* meaning "through" and *fumum* or "smoke."

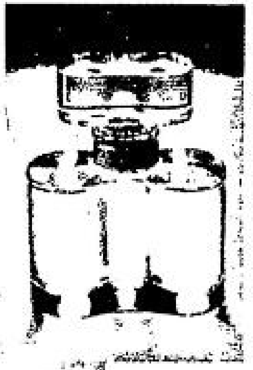


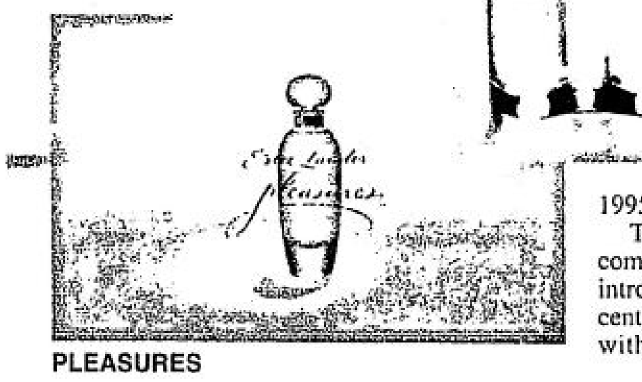
Religious ceremonies were often marked by the burning of aromatic gums and woods. In Egypt, fragrant ointments and liquid oils were used in and after bath.

Modern times have made the perfume an essential accessory of a woman. The most popular and successful scents through the years were those that reflected the qualities and aspirations of women of the era as well as the essence of their fashion.

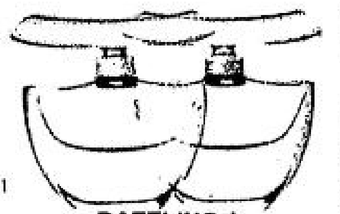
For 50 years, Estee Lauder fragrances have managed to capture the heart of female passions to become the companion of many women.

Youth Dew, Estee Lauder's first fragrance, reflected the good times of the postwar boom of the 1950s. The spicy blend helped change the traditional perception of perfume usage. Fragrances were no longer seen as luxury items to be sprayed only occasionally but necessary accessories that every woman must have.





PLEASURES



DAZZLING

In the '60s, Estee reflected the rise of feminism. The strong mix of rose and jasmine scents appealed to more vocal and assertive women fighting for their rights.

Estee Lauder's Aliage suited the mood of the early '70s, when the Cold War continued to be waged and the United States coped with Vietnam War protests.

The growing prosperity of the '80s was the right time for Cinnabar and White Linen, which were harmonious blends of gentleness and decisiveness. Stronger scents, like Beautiful and Knowing, reflected women's growing confidence and greater earning power as they became successful executives. Beautiful was among the top-selling fragrances for 15 years and continues to rank among the Top 3 fragrances in the United States today.

Pleasures, with its morning dew-like freshness that affirmed women's femininity both at work and at home, appealed to the '90s woman who had to excel both at work and at home. The scent received the industry's top honor in 1995, the Fifi Award.

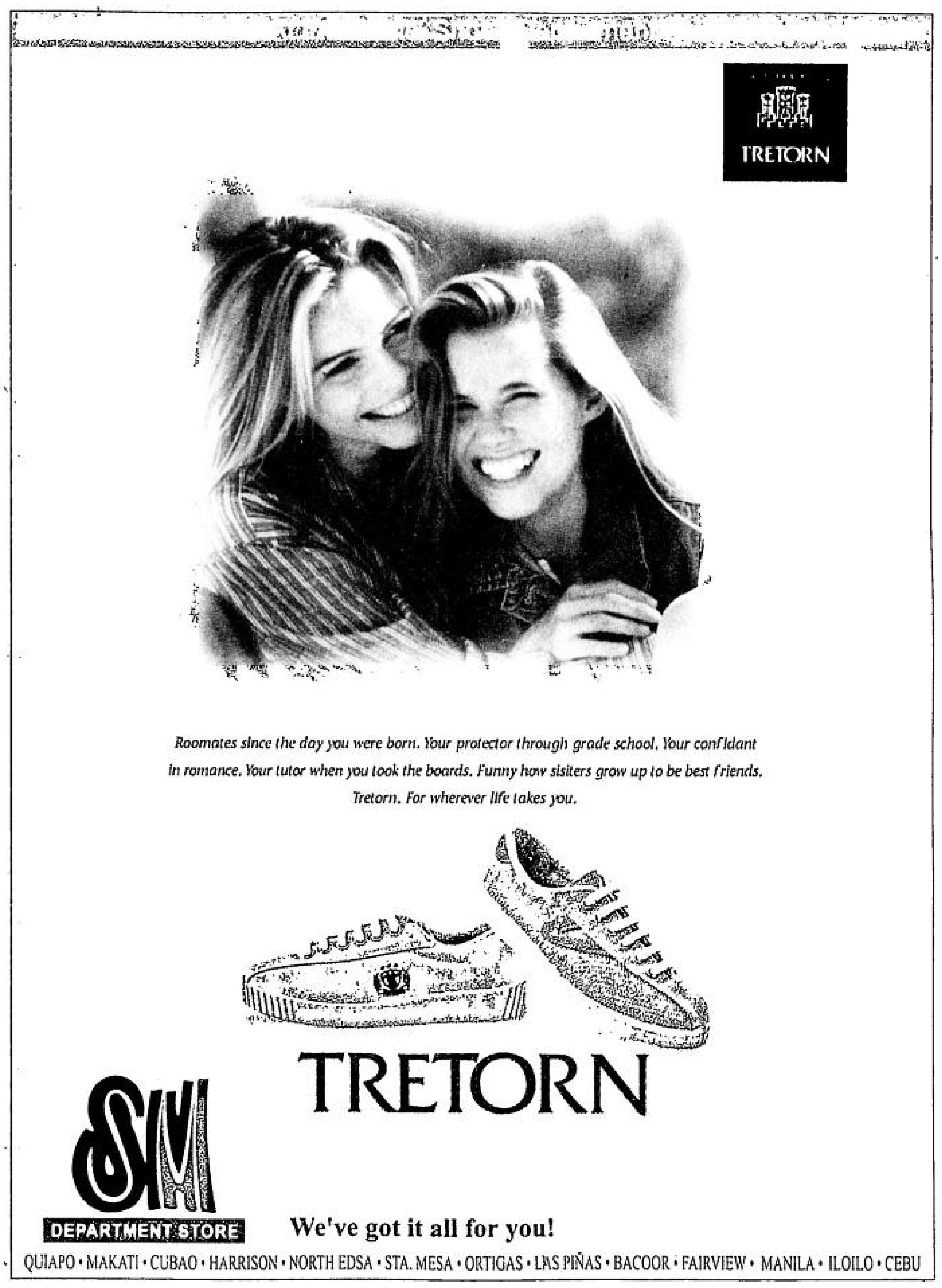
The fragrance industry has become more competitive over the years with 543 perfumes introduced in this decade alone. This is 90 percent more than when Estee Lauder came out with its first fragrance in the 1950s. The US-based cosmetic company continues to dominate the scene with Pleasures.

Estee Lauder continues to anticipate women's needs. For this decade, the company believes that women are looking for a fragrance that reflects inner strength yet is a mix of delicate qualities inspired by the oriental woman. As the 21st century unfolds, Estee Lauder has introduced Intuition, which celebrates a woman's sixth sense, passion and generosity. It exalts the cosmopolitan woman who looks at the world with a sense of adventure and rises to meet to every challenge that comes her way.

Estee Lauder scents are available at all Rustan's outlets.

White Linen
ESTĒE LAUDER

WHITE Linen shows the woman easing up.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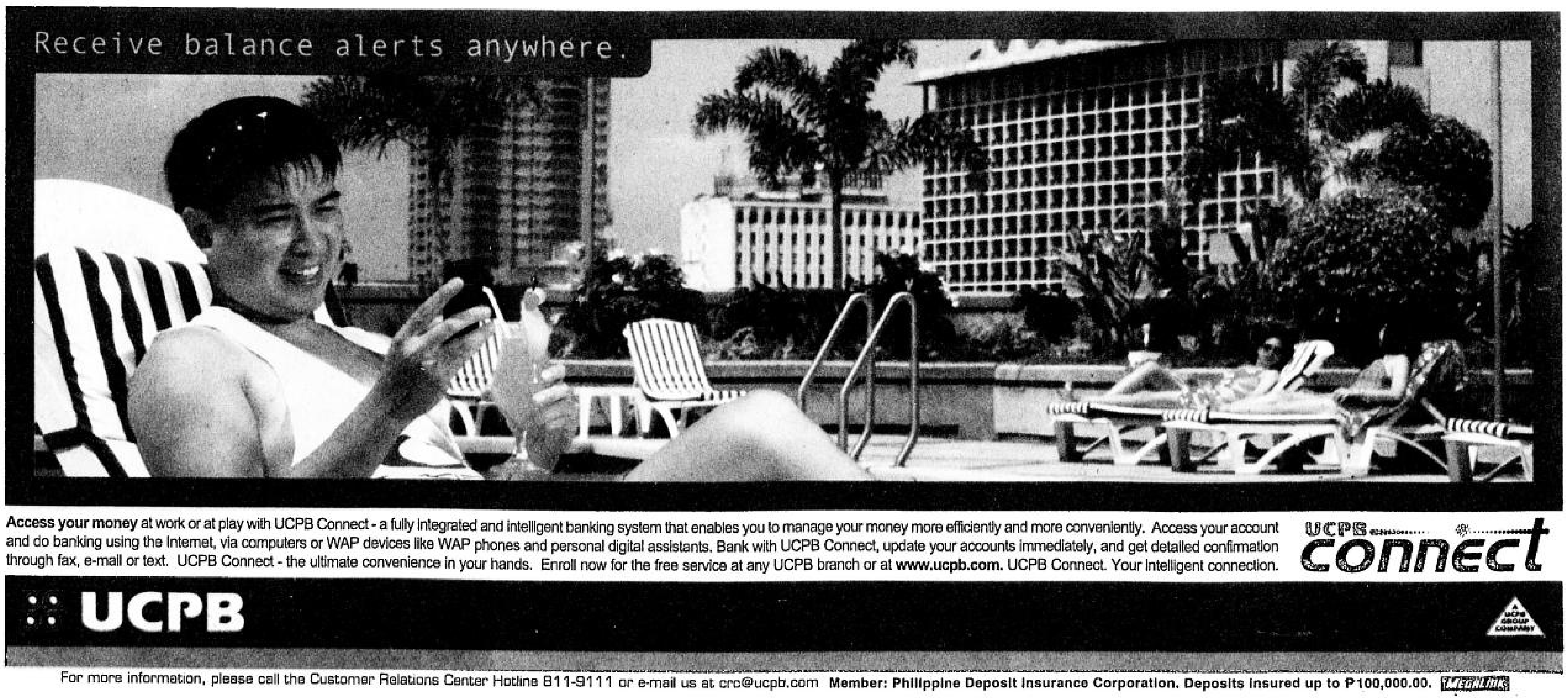
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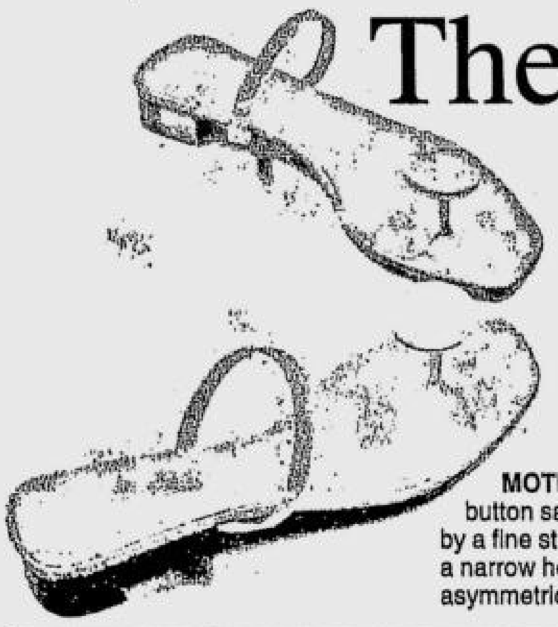
The elegance of Spanish leather

Mother-of-pearl and carabao horn sourced from Southeast Asia adorn the Pedro Garcia summer collection



MOTHER-OF-PEARL button sandals enforced by a fine stitched strap and a narrow heel with an asymmetric curve

WITH THE FLUCTUATING exchange rate, Rustan's has been sourcing new footwear that have the elegance of the luxury labels yet the affordability of the reliable shoes. It has been setting its sights on other countries outside the United States and Italy, such as Spain.

In the past few years, Spain has been placing itself prominently on the fashion map. Its success, especially in footwear, is aligned with the country's substantial leather and manufacturing industries, with its tradition of artisan craftsmanship and modern technology that guarantees high quality.

Rustan's has recently included Pedro Garcia shoes in its shoe department. Although the shoes exude the elegance of famous brands, they are priced much less, between P5,950-10,000.

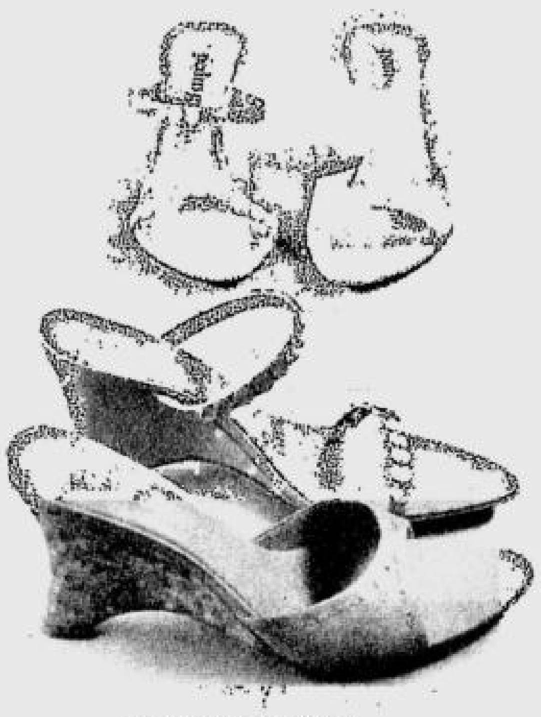
In 1925, Pedro Garcia Amat started out making children's shoes before he started producing adult shoes. He became successful for the durability of his shoes and the stitching system. By 1956, he was focusing on women's footwear and selling them under his name. At 80, Don Pedro was awarded by the Spanish Government for his enterprising spirit and business leadership.

The second-generation Garcias expanded the family business. They brought their products to shoe fairs. In Spain, the competition for middle- and low-end markets was too stiff. Pedro Garcia positioned its footwear in the middle- and high-end market. In the '60s, fashion magazines such as Vogue and Harper's Bazaar took notice of Pedro Garcia shoes. Eventually they ventured into the export market. The Spanish company forged a partnership with an American company named Caressa to produce Pedro Garcia shoes for the US.

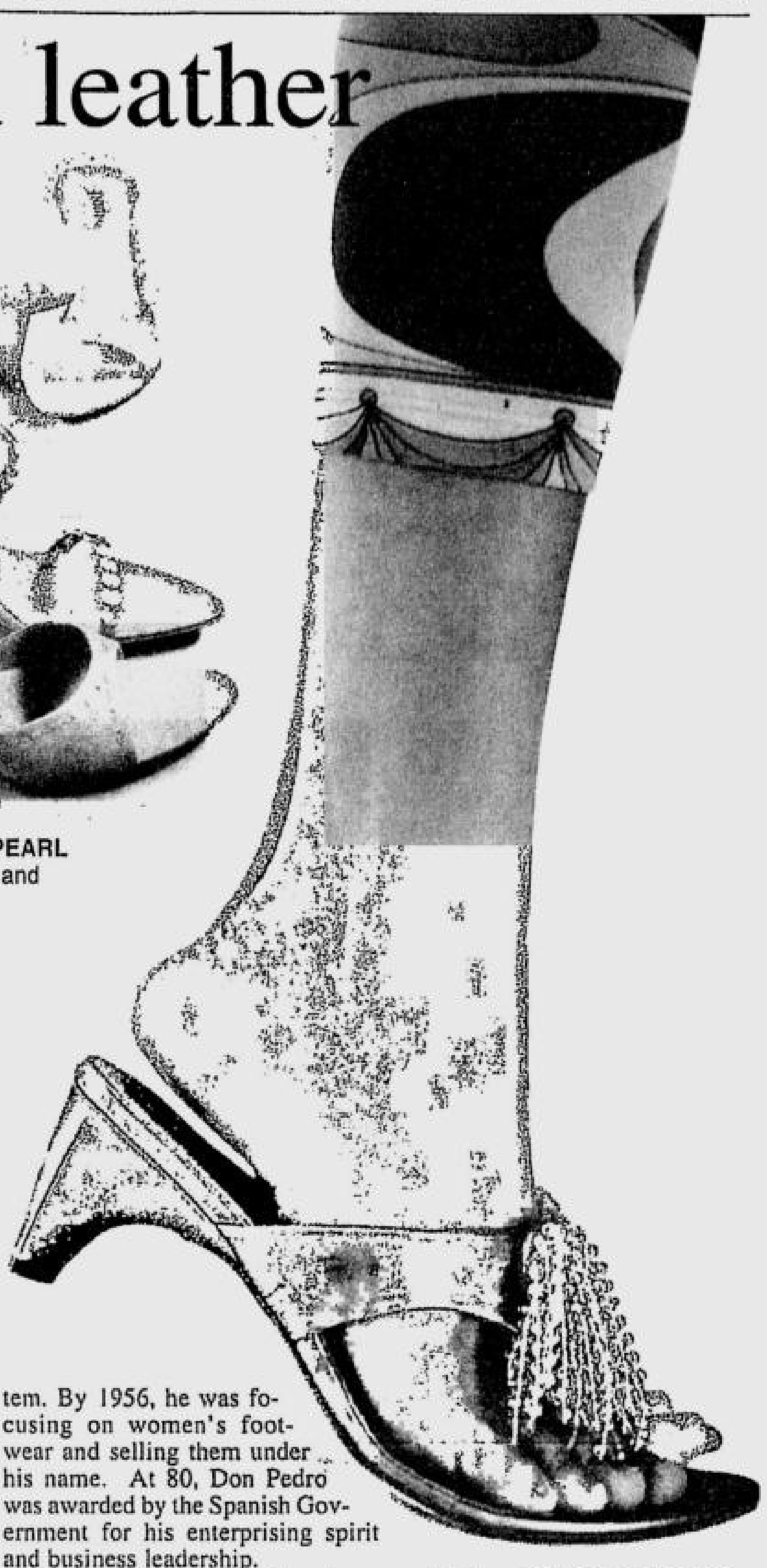
The third generation has taken over in designing the products. Made by a grandson who is also named Pedro Garcia and his girlfriend Dale Dubovich, the styles are dressy. The modernity is reflected in the unusual proportions and interesting heels. Yet the vamps are comfortable and high enough for wide feet and arches.

The company produces nearly 200,000 pairs every year. The leathers and components are sourced in Italy but everything is made in the province of Alicante.

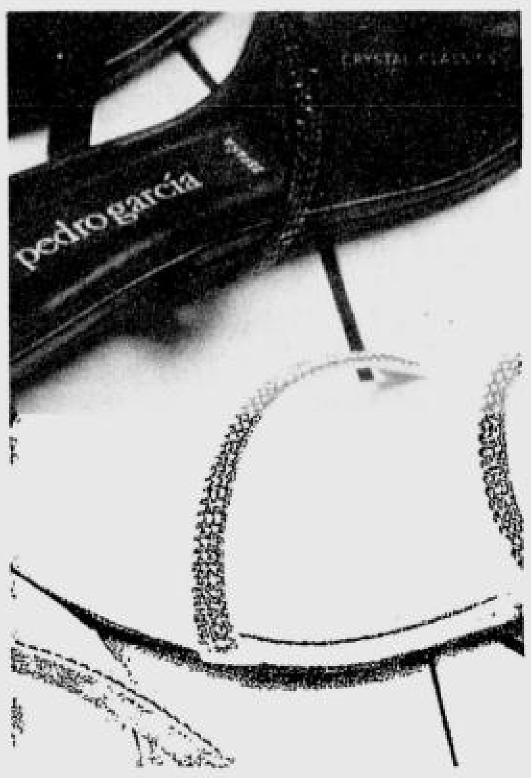
For the summer collection, Pedro Garcia infuses mother-of-pearl and carabao horn sourced from Southeast Asia. The materials are brought to Italy where they are hand-cut by experts, processed and coated with resin to make them more durable. The mother of pearl is used to adorn sandals or the heels of wedge styles.



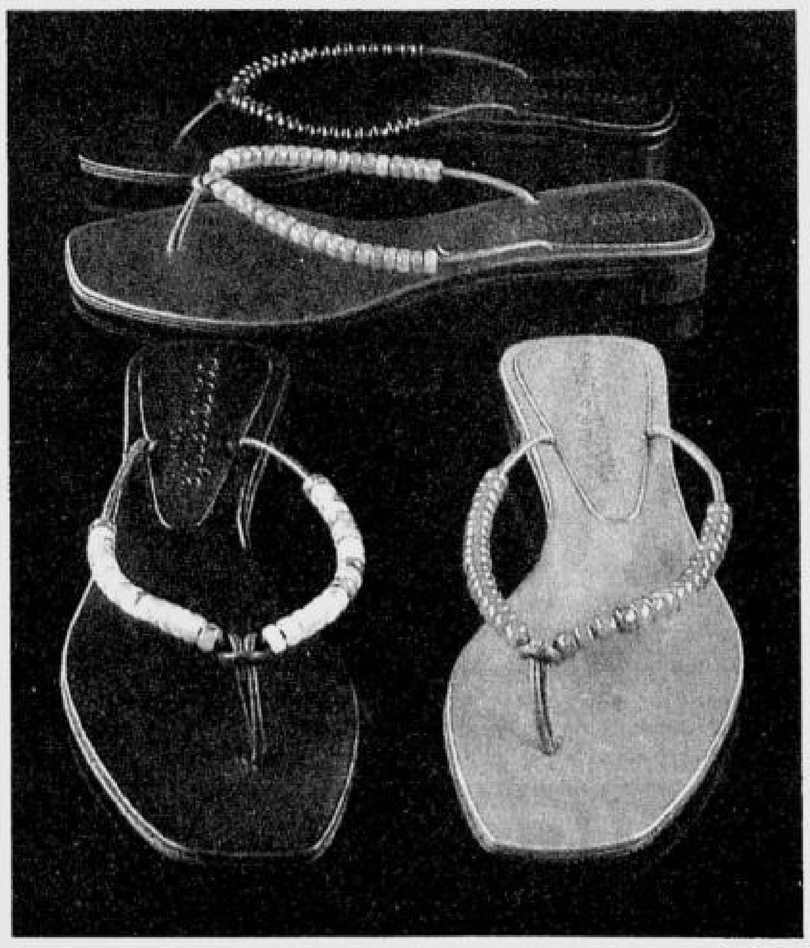
MOTHER-OF-PEARL wedge sandals and paillettes



PEDRO GARCIA'S innovation: The quirky heel that's between a regular heel and a wedge. This step-in is made of calf-skin with antique finish and cascades of resin beads



CLASSIC things encrusted with Swarovski crystals



THONGS made from dried corn hulls and tied with sturdy shoelace

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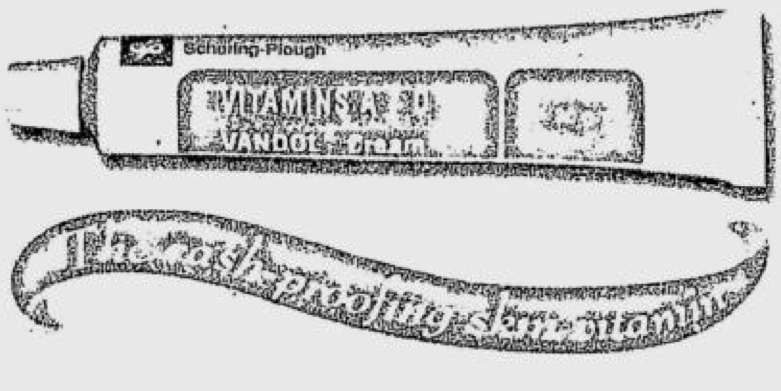

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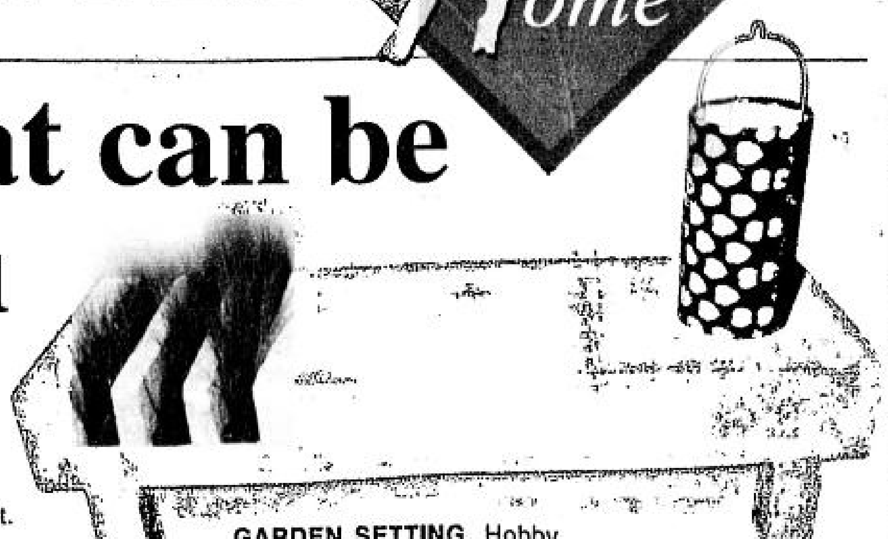
Furniture that can be whatever you want it to be



GARDEN SETTING. Hobby bench made from stone setting

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Chito Vecina

IN THIS era of mobility and rising population, modular furniture is the way to go.

Designer Herbert Ludwikowski once said, "Create open space, reduce it to the essentials." He meant creating furniture that is simple to assemble and versatile in function, depending on the user's demands.

Modular furniture can serve compact spaces such as apartments, studios and condominiums. It is utilitarian because it could be used for both living and dining areas. Sectional sofas could be compressed together or wrapped around a corner, separated by a common corner table. A sofa section could be removed to make a loveseat. This flexibility provides the homeowner with many options.

Furniture on casters is one way of achieving a flexible and casual setting.

Modular furniture is space efficient as it takes advantage of vertical and horizontal spaces. It builds up instead of out.

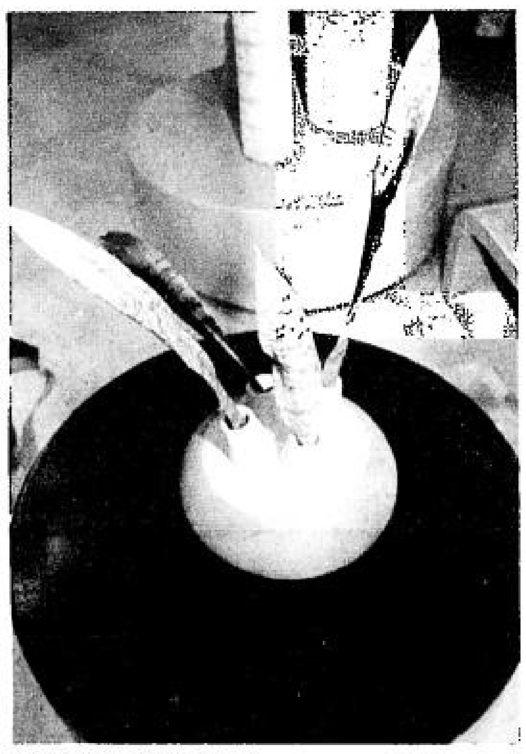
Modular furniture also makes good economic sense. It involves a lower initial investment than built-in counterparts. When the homeowner moves, they'll be able to take the furniture and use or reconfigure it.

This concept of flexible furnishing fired the imagination of two designers, Josef Crisanto and Milo Naval, at the Manila F.A.M.E. International Fair held at the World Trade Center.

Crisanto's main setting at the exhibition hall was designed for visitors and buyers to chill out after a whole day of inspecting the booths. The setting was divided into various lounging areas that were color blocked. He focused on products that could do various functions. For instance, a flower vase was designed in such a way that it could also be a candleholder. With the lid off, the object becomes a fruit bowl.

Crisanto inspired manufacturers to create unconventional, multipurpose pieces such as cushions made from *pandan* fibers that can be stacked up to create high stools. Sofa sections can be

FURNITURE/ p.F2



MULTIFUNCTIONAL vase can be used as candleholder. Remove the lid and it becomes a bowl.

MOSAIC resin lamp perks up Crisanto's exhibit area at the recent Citem Fair.

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

MARCO SISON
IN CONCERT

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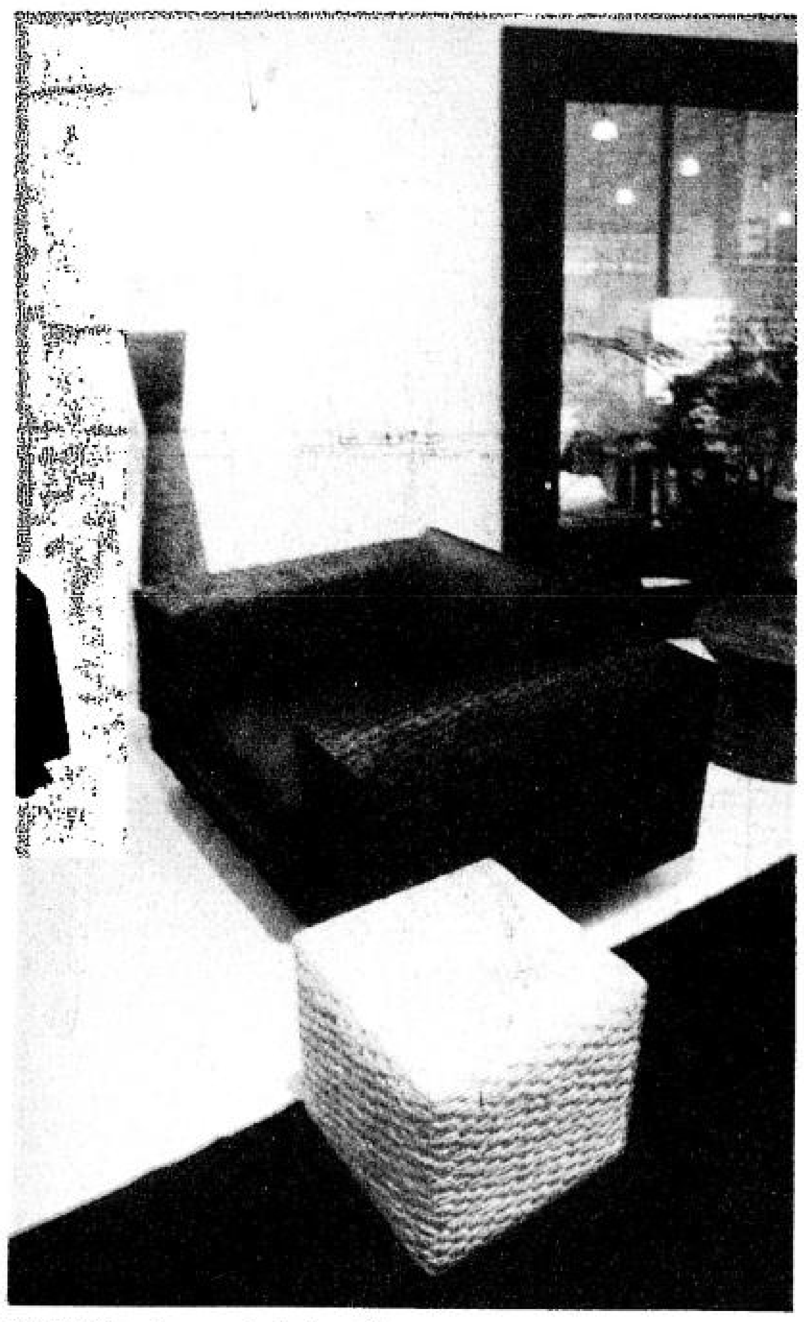
NAVAL'S four-piece modular setting

Furniture that can be whatever you want it to be



NAVAL'S *abaca* and *lupis* setting

(From page F1)

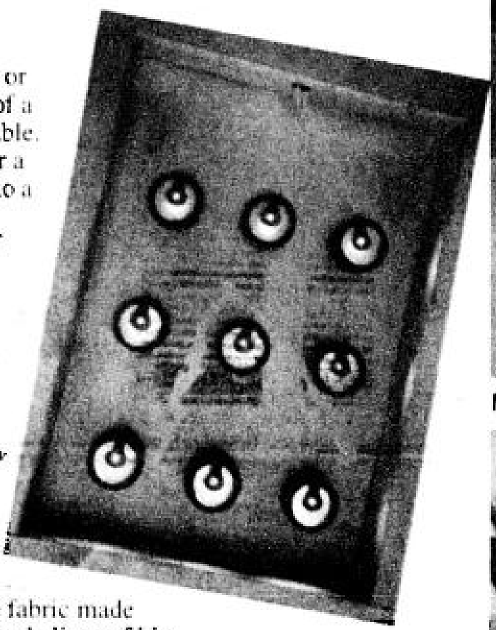
extended to form a long seater or divan or a bed. A tray on top of a stool creates an instant side table. The rug pieces can be used for a floor accent, a mat or rolled into a sculpture.

Crisanto points to a nest of tables made from resin, a popular example of modular furniture. Their varied sizes can fit into any configuration.

Naval is a member of Movement 8, a group that aims to bring Philippine design into the world. His booth caught the attention of many visitors because of the sheer sensuality of the mosquito net cover, held up by a modern metal frame. The fabric made a perfect background to the simple lines of his designs. His setting was furnished with modular furniture made from *abaca, lupis* and banana fibers. Naval's four-piece settings provide flexibility and movability. They give the homeowner the chance to change a room's layout whenever he or she feels like it. Flexibility and movability evoke a feeling of comfort.

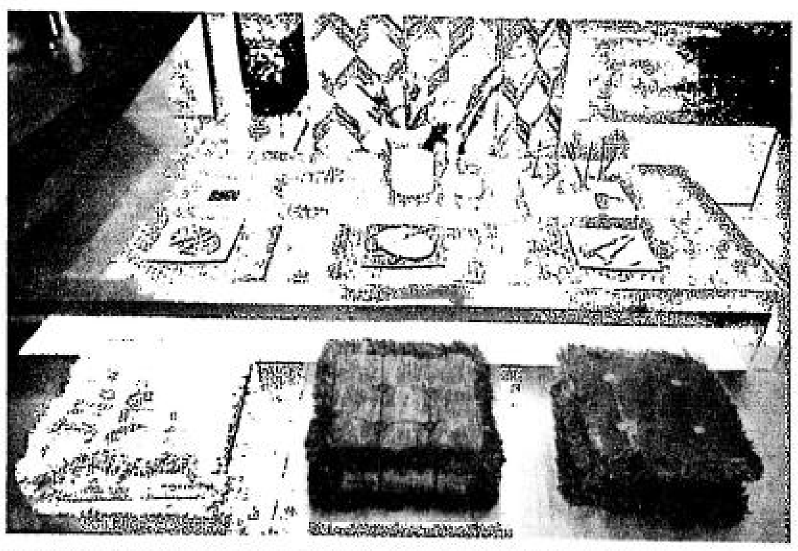
Connect an ottoman to an armchair and the user can curl up or put his feet up. The same piece could be set beside another ottoman and it becomes a low sofa and the ambience fosters convivial conversation.

"It's nice to move your things around the home, so things don't get boring," he says.

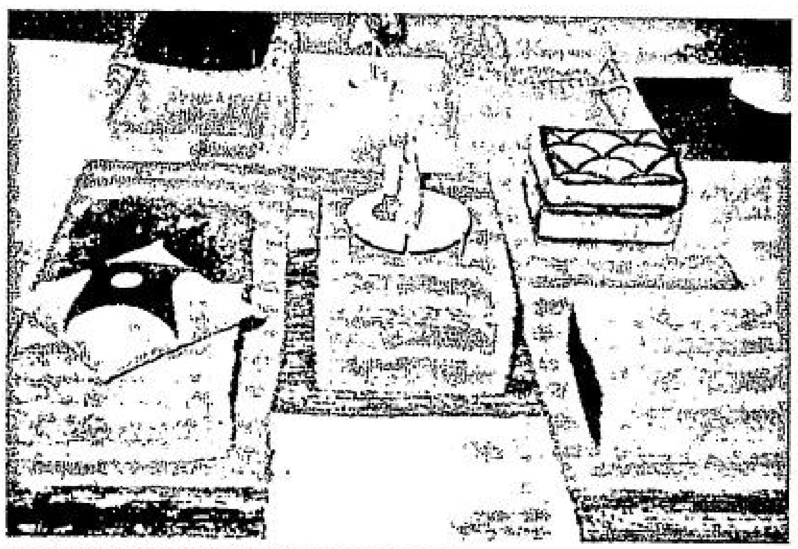


WALL lamps made of hammered metal

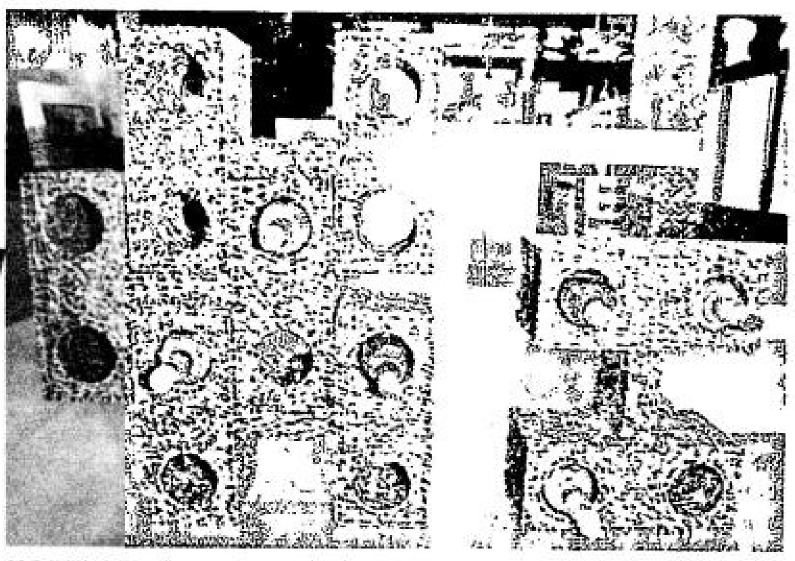
NATIVE lamps in modern shapes by Naval



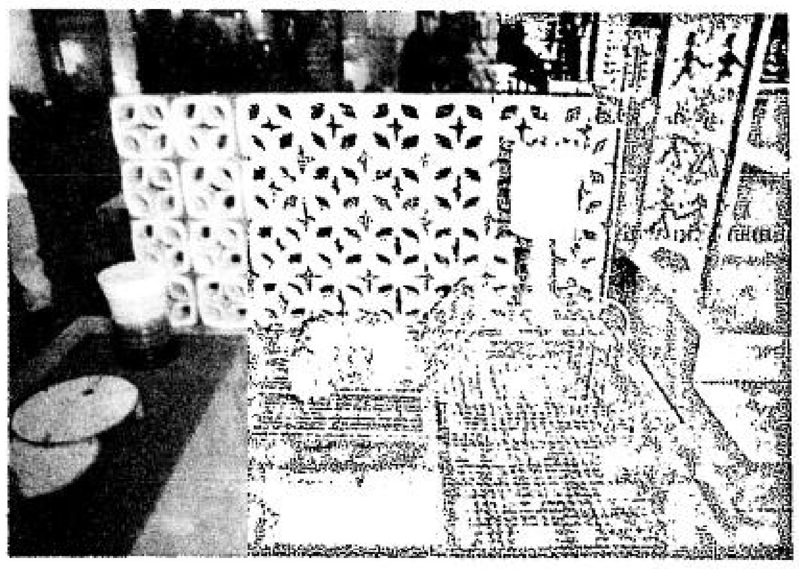
DINING ASIAN STYLE. Cushions are covered with raffia and organza.



MODULAR set covered with recycled denim



MODULAR wine rack made from *abaca*



MODULAR tables

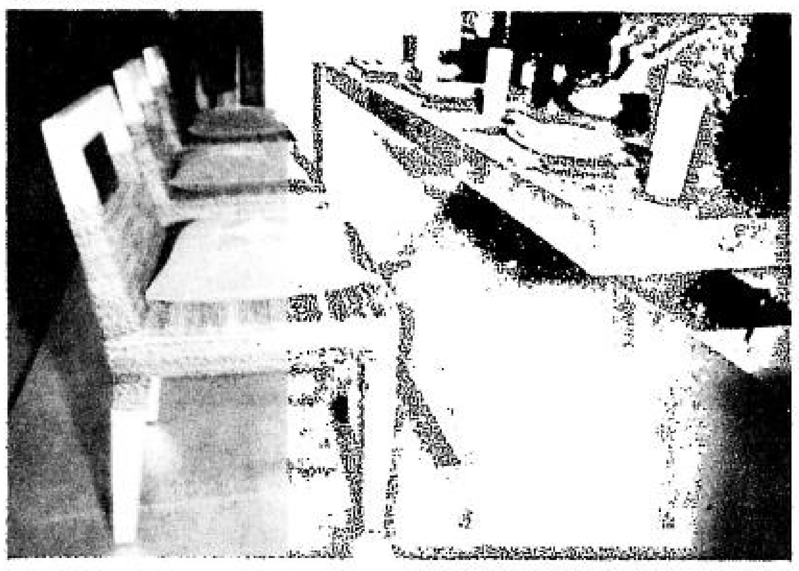
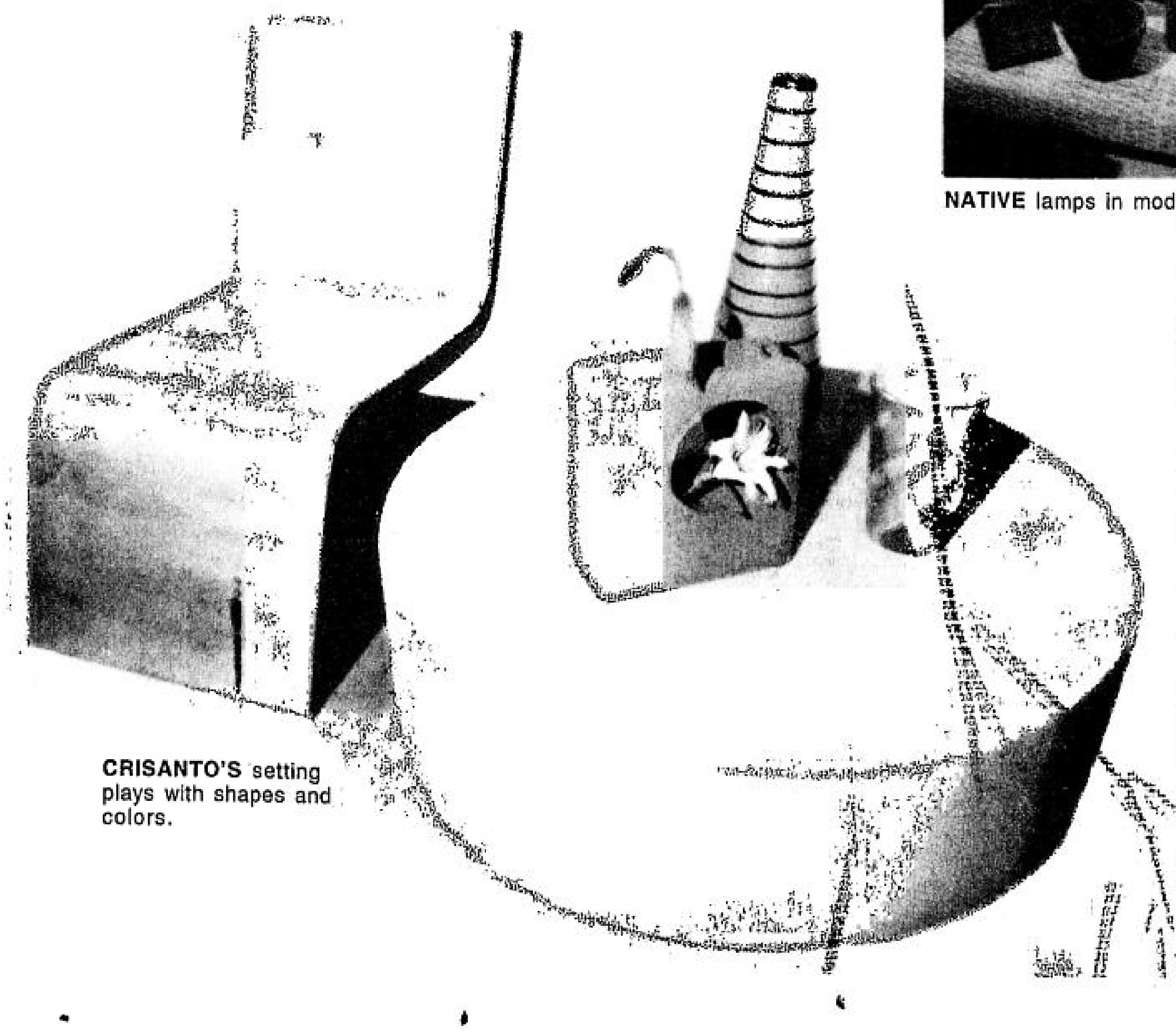


TABLE furnishing using native materials



CRISANTO'S setting plays with shapes and colors.

CRISANTO'S modular set using warm colors. The furniture pieces can be reconfigured to fit any space.

Meditations in Bangkok

By Jose Javier Reyes

HONG Kong has ceased to be a convenient getaway, considering the fall of the Philippine peso. Gone are the years when a mere multiplication by three got the local equivalent of the HK dollar. Multiplying everything by six can turn a few days of shopping into months of nightmare when the credit card bill starts pouring in. Moreover, just how much of Ocean Terminal can you take? Granville is no more. The sight of security guards standing outside the Prada store at Pacific Place makes you feel every cent of depreciation suffered by the peso you earn back here.

So it's Thailand that has turned into a paradise for whatever whim you might have. I am not a sand-and-sea person so I couldn't care less about the divine beaches and all that communing with Neptune's Kingdom in Phuket. Besides, I realize that the best way to upset other people on holiday (whether here or abroad) is to parade myself in a swimsuit and display myself like a freshly skinned inflatable tuna.

I am a shopping bag kind of organism...the Homo sapien whose biceps developed from compulsive shopping and mastering the art of packing purchases in a suitcase while worrying about the cost of excess weight for the return flight. Paradise can offer all the blue skies, sparkling emerald waters and beaches with diamond-like sand...but give me escalators, central air-conditioning and the chance to practice the Filipino art of haggling.

Together with friends Khryss Adalia and Jojo Atienza, I opted for four nights and five days in Bangkok. I had a chance to visit Thailand's capital in the early '80s. During that time, Bangkok reminded me of Caloocan City with Buddhist altars and shopping malls randomly sprouting on sidewalks. Ah, the difference of 20 years can boggle a tourist's mind. When I returned to the place last February to break a long flight from the Czech Republic, I found out that everything everyone said about the Bangkok of today was true.

To begin with, the Thai baht is only 10 percent higher than the Philippine peso. You would not need your Aurora or Casio calculator to determine the peso value of the goods that attack your very nervous system.

No garbage crisis

Bangkok is clean—even the enormous pillars holding up their multilevel expressways and Sky Train do not have a patina of the grime that seems to stick to everything that does not move here in Manila. Besides, Thailand is not at the height of the election season, unlike Manila where every slab of concrete is made to look like dirty human skin with scabs because of all of those hideous posters of smiling and trying-to-be-noble candidates.

A quick ocular inspection also revealed the absence in Bangkok of garbage. Khryss counted a grand total of three flies. Throughout our short stay in Bangkok, we did not have a close encounter with a crawling insect.

I reminded Khryss that we were, after all, in areas where there was central air-conditioning. But Khryss was able to prove me wrong later. Sidewalk food stalls and open-air *karinderyas* did not have the perpetual buzzing that tends to ruin one's appetite and arouse fears of cholera.

Then there is the pleasant disposition of Thai people. We always make such a big deal about our country being the Land of Smiles but I have yet to see salesclerks in local department stores display that part of our heritage. Of course, there is that language barrier in Bangkok...and the clumsy sort of English hotel front desk people and doormen, salespeople and even cab drivers speak whenever you try the art of giving instructions or even non-conversation. Yet they are sweet and seemingly genuine in their wish for you to like their country because of the dollars you are bringing in. And the strategy, whether planned or not, really works.

A Thai San Juan

Since we were there on a holiday, we expected to experience the legendary Bangkok traffic that reputedly could make the South Superhighway bottleneck look like a trip to the Emerald City. But, alas, we failed to gather a very important piece of information. While Christian Manila was cloaked in utmost solemnity over the Lenten season, our Good Friday (April 13) just happened to coincide with their New Year, a celebration called Sonkrang.

Let me explain Sonkrang's cultural and economic value. Being New Year, a great number of the shops were closed. That last sentence was written with a sense of loss, anger and dismay as this writer brought along comfortable shoes and worked out for two days to increase his physical stamina for hedonistic shopping, browsing and walking.

The Thais are not content to mark their New Year on a single day. They stretch the celebration to three days. As if this were not enough, they wish you a Happy New Year not through the destruction of your nerves and eardrums via fireworks in a variety of convolution and design. Instead, they lovingly give you a bath, throwing pails of water mixed with flour. I kid you not.

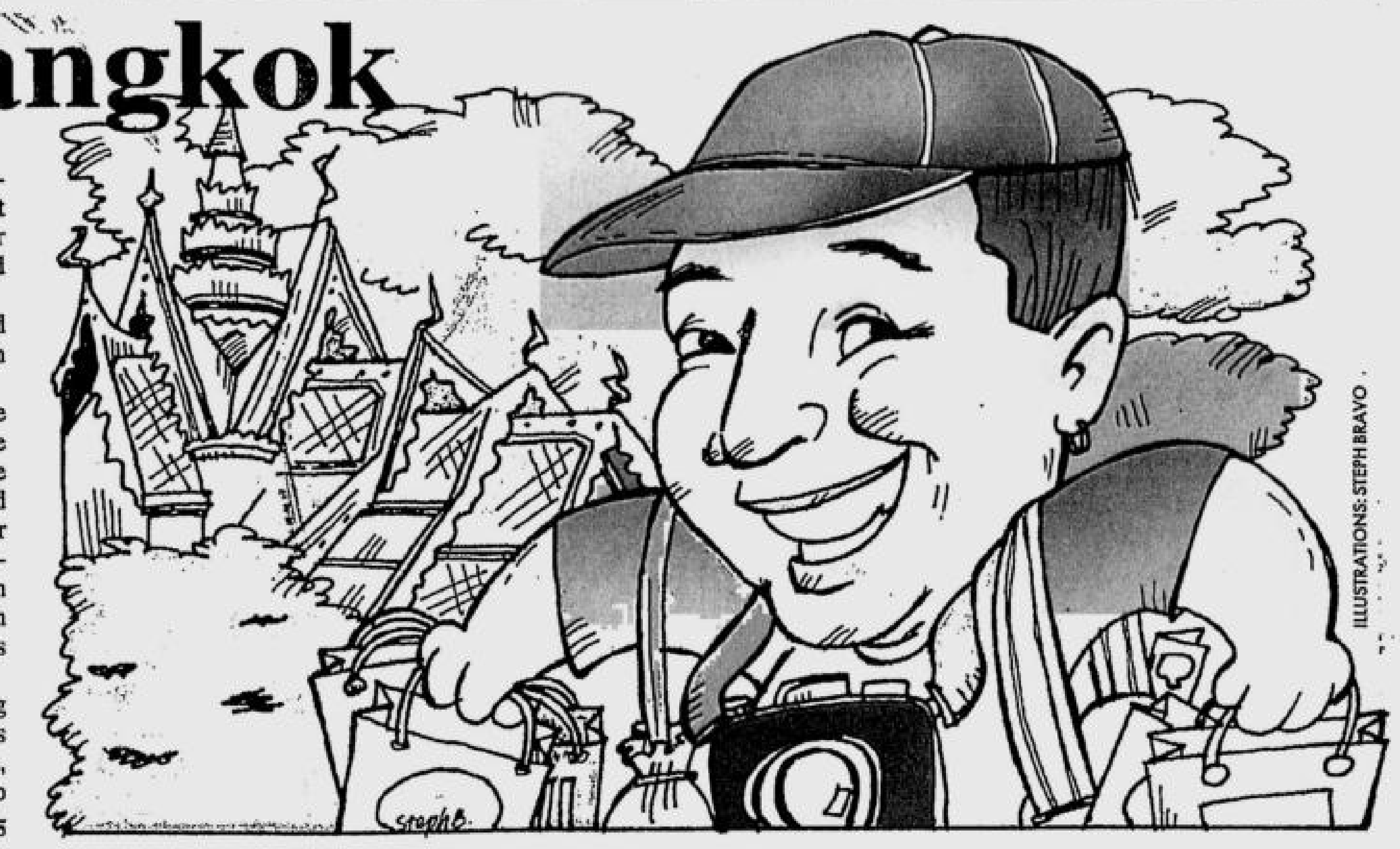
The tourist guide who picked us up at the airport properly warned us that we should be prepared to say Thank You if and when someone decides to empty a pail of water on us or squirt us with their water pistols as we were experiencing Bangkok. He told us that the gesture was meant to bring good luck. My companions and I looked at each other and realized that Bangkok turns into San Juan marking the feast of John the Baptist on June 24. We were assured, however, that the water was going to be clean and that the flour they mixed with the liquid can be easily removed with a single washing.

The only hassle was that you had to go around Bangkok looking like a larva pretending to be an *espasol*.

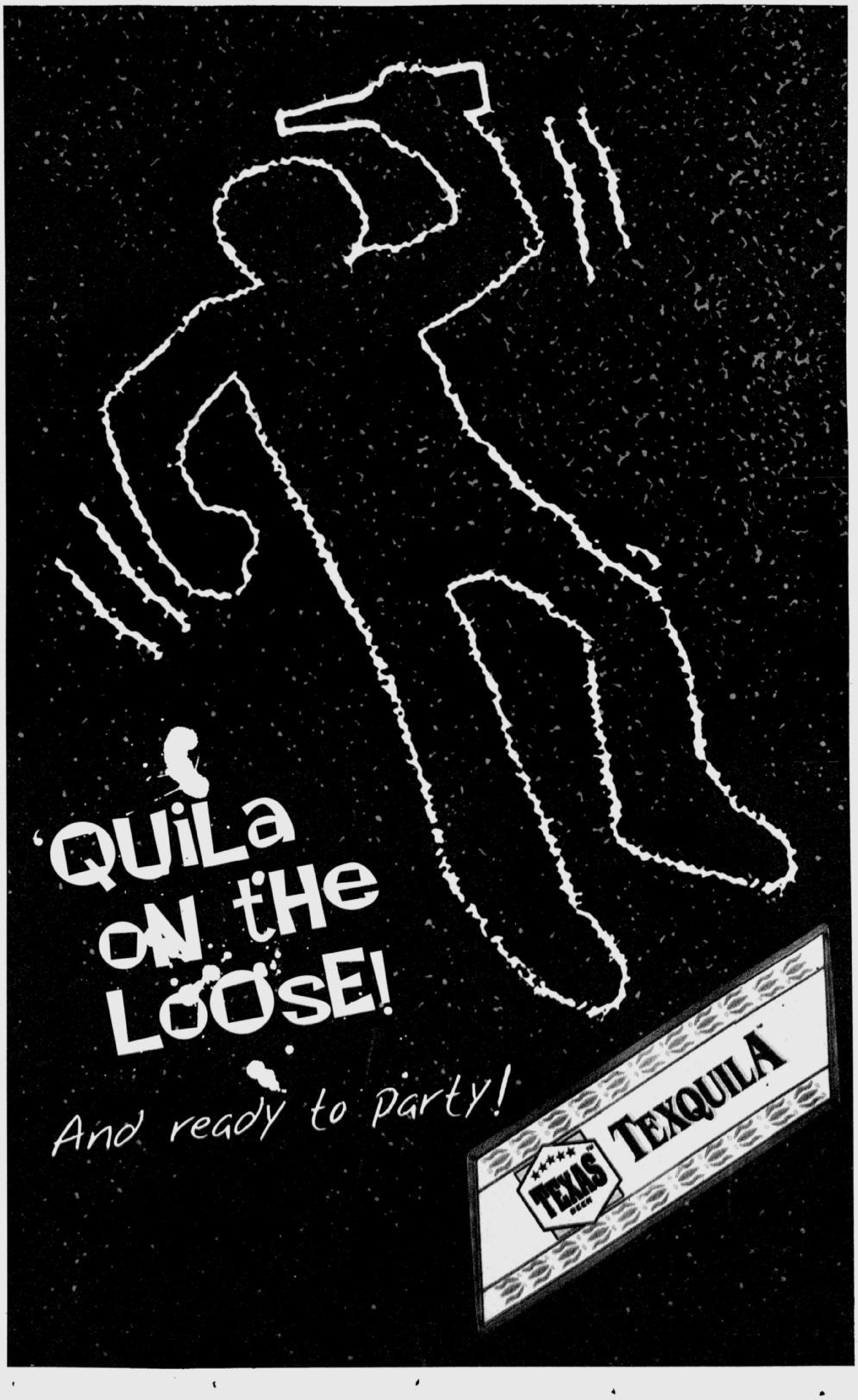
But a determination to shop till we drop gave us the courage to brave watery attacks since the triumph of a good bargain exceeds the inconveniences of being both soggy and powdery. Besides, just how much physical danger is there from cruising pick-up trucks with over-excited residents dispensing water from a drum and dousing anyone on motorbikes, cars with open windows or even ignorant pedestrians sweating in the humid air of the city.

Lucky for us, our hotel was within walking distance of four shopping centers. Right across was Sogo and to our right were Gaysorn Plaza, the World Trade Center and the Narayana Shop

MEDITATIONS/ p.F5

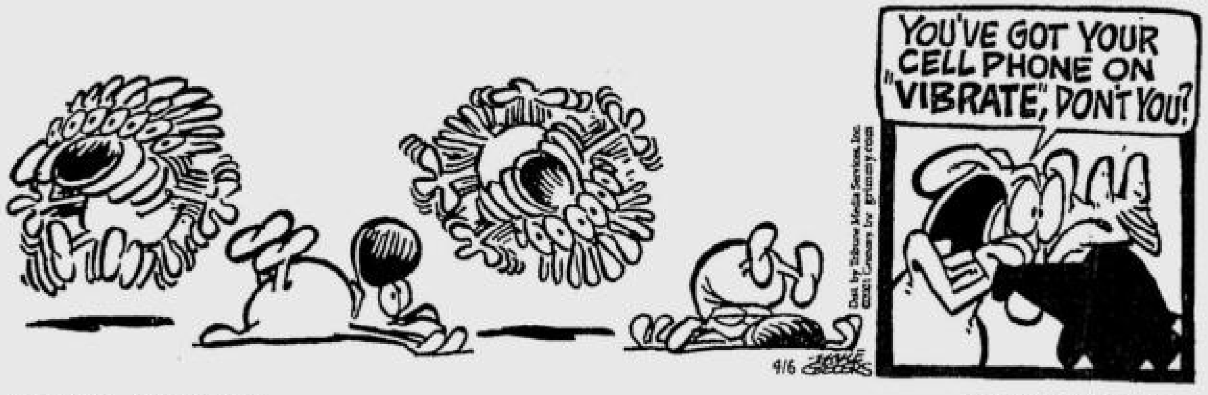


ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO



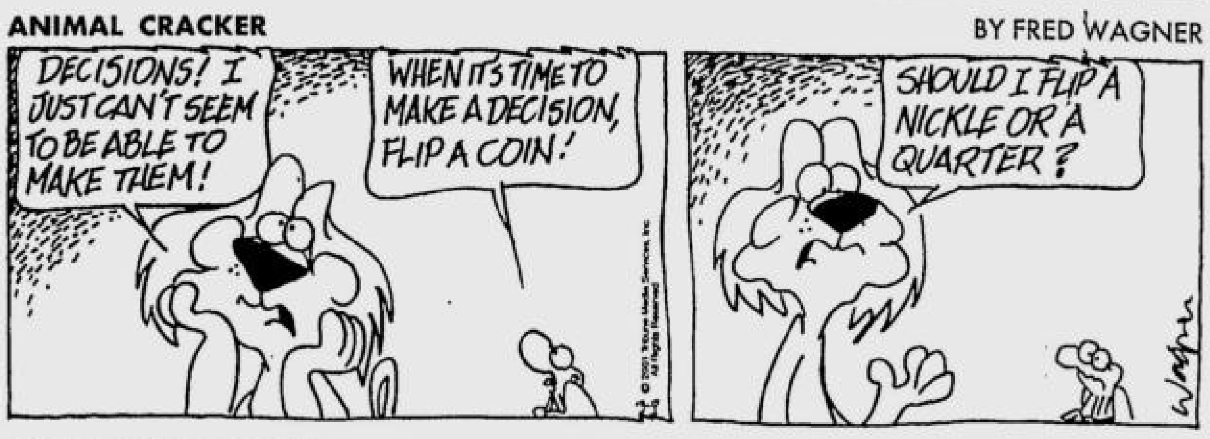
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


YOU'VE GOT YOUR CELL PHONE ON "VIBRATE", DON'T YOU?
4/6

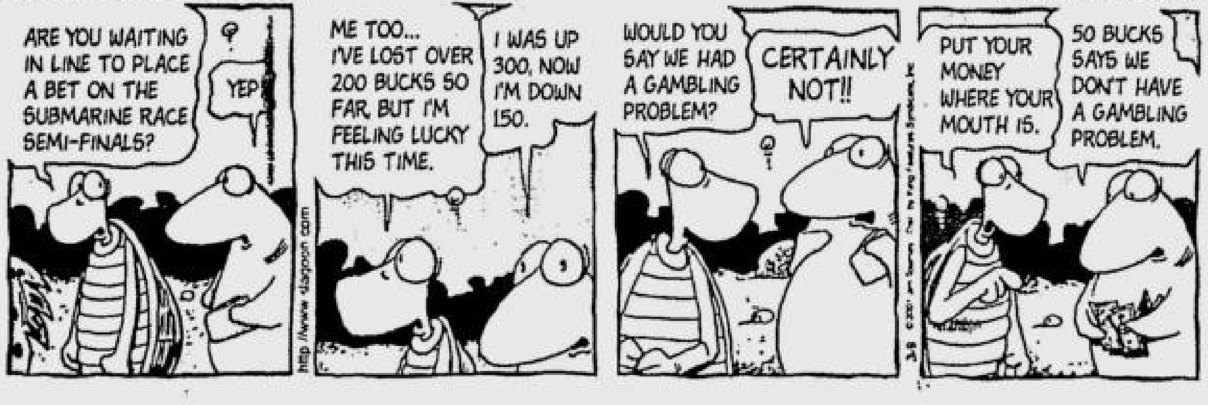
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


DECISIONS! I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THEM!
WHEN IT'S TIME TO MAKE A DECISION, FLIP A COIN!
SHOULD I FLIP A NICKLE OR A QUARTER?
Wagner

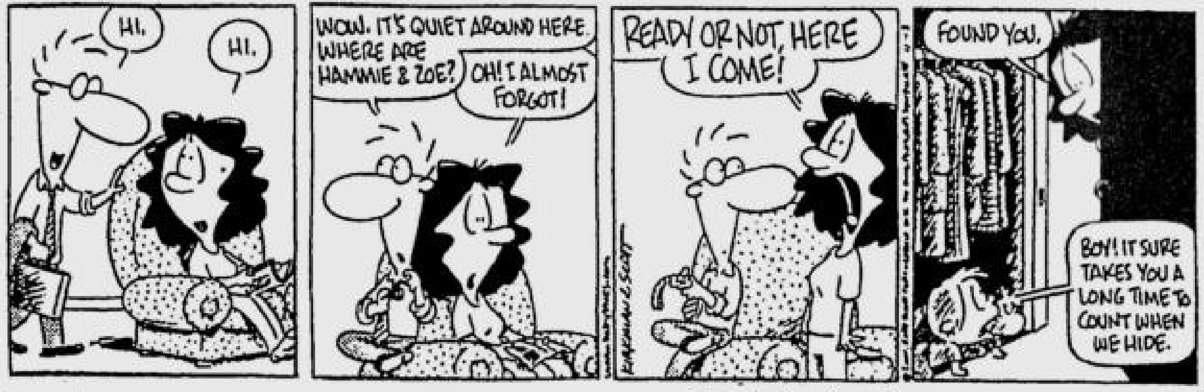
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


ARE YOU WAITING IN LINE TO PLACE A BET ON THE SUBMARINE RACE SEMI-FINALS?
YEP.
ME TOO... I'VE LOST OVER 200 BUCKS SO FAR, BUT I'M FEELING LUCKY THIS TIME.
I WAS UP 300, NOW I'M DOWN 150.
http://www.slagoon.com
WOULD YOU SAY WE HAD A GAMBLING PROBLEM?
CERTAINLY NOT!!
PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS.
50 BUCKS SAYS WE DON'T HAVE A GAMBLING PROBLEM.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI.
HI.
WOW. IT'S QUIET AROUND HERE. WHERE ARE HAMMIE & ZOE?
OH! I ALMOST FORGOT!
READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!
FOUND YOU.
BOY! IT SURE TAKES YOU A LONG TIME TO COUNT WHEN WE HIDE.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jack Klugman, Coretta Scott King, Sheena Easton, Anouk Aimee, Casey Kasem, David Lascher

Happy Birthday: This year can be very productive if you are willing to invest energy in your goals. Your ideas will be right on target. Others will support your plans and help take them to completion. You will have plenty of opportunities to get ahead both professionally and personally. Your numbers: 12, 23, 28, 34, 39, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be receptive to new ideas. Friendships may develop into serious partnerships. Stability can result if you plan and act carefully. It's time you took control of your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Finding solutions to other people's problems will bring you popularity. Keep your eyes open. You could meet an exciting new lover through your work. Make sure he or she isn't already involved.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your partner will feel your emotional ups and downs. Try not to be too fickle when dealing with loved ones. The confusion you cause may result in your isolation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Residential moves or renovations will turn out well. Develop your ideas; you may have a real winner on your hands. Don't let pessimistic individuals hold you back from initiating your concepts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Let your mate know exactly what your plans for the future are. You'll get more support than you expected. Don't be afraid to ask relatives to pitch in and help.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be taken advantage of if you are too generous with your time. Don't become involved in large organizations. Friends will disappoint you if you expect too much from them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can convince anyone of anything today. It's time to stand up for your beliefs. Join groups that have a purpose. You can make a difference and will feel good if you help those less fortunate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take care of any medical problems immediately. You will reap the benefits if you put money into upgrading your residence. You can make money through smart investments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): What a great day for romance, so plan a quiet evening for you and the one you love. You need to be reminded of how much you mean to one another.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your ideas for projects at work will bring you recognition and advancement. You will be able to present your concepts to superiors and persuade them to help you get things off the ground.

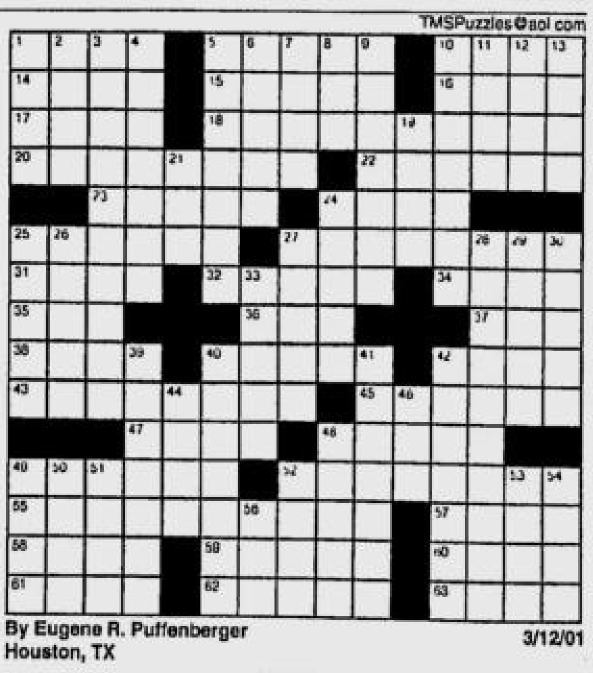
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This is a great day to pamper yourself and do all the little things you enjoy so much. You need to get back to basics and remember what life's all about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have problems with your lover, if you haven't been paying enough attention to him or her. Try to make it up by planning a special evening for two. You need time to rediscover one another.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, caring and straightforward. You will not mince words when something you want is at stake. You are interested in everything, but will always rely on what you know will work. You are traditional, conservative and yet curious about the unfamiliar.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

3/12/01

ACROSS
1 Russian saint
5 Narcotic nut
10 Daffy
14 Conceal in one's hand
15 Bargain model: pref.
16 Hebrew month
17 Surface measure
18 Bowls, pitchers, etc.
20 Squash cousin
22 Oracles
23 Annoy
24 Vegas rival
25 Pay tribute to
27 Uncontested victory
31 Rehan and Huxtable
32 Glistening
34 Hardy cabbage
35 Waikiki garland
36 Press coverage
37 Fond du ___, WI
38 GM make
40 Feeling of anxiety
42 Choir voice
43 Rainy-day savings
45 Glossy cotton fabric
47 Dueling sword
48 Answer
49 Attack
52 Thick soups
55 Marvel alternative
57 Brood of pheasants
58 Part of Q.E.D.
59 Time being
60 Jog
61 One of Cain's brothers
62 Belinda Carlisle's group
63 Charity

DOWN
1 Colorful fish
2 Actress Flynn Boyle
3 Fabric patterns of muted colors
4 Shaffer's, Mozart play
5 Is virtuous
6 Parisian school
7 Chime
8 Pic blowup
9 Generally
10 Legal eagle's tome
11 Singer Anita
12 Jung or Sagan
13 Cinnabar and galena
19 Eye signal
21 Wager
24 Puts in order
25 Beauty spot?
26 One of the Astaires
27 Airfoils
28 Frank Zappa's biggest hit
29 Make happy
30 Scout's job, in brief
33 Hardware for a door
39 Sneakiness
40 Immemorial
41 Sleeping sickness carriers
42 Southern state capital
44 Saga on a grand scale
46 Suitable
48 Golfer Mediate
49 Citrus refreshers
50 Withered
51 Louver
52 One of a "Turandot" trio
53 Dead Sea kingdom
54 Television sound stages
56 Guernsey bellow

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	C	H	E	M	E	R	S	■	B	U	S	H	E	L
I	L	O	V	E	Y	O	U	■	E	N	C	O	R	E
N	I	N	E	T	E	E	N	■	A	P	O	L	L	O
U	F	O	■	■	■	■	S	E	C	L	U	D	E	S
S	T	R	E	T	C	H	E	D	O	U	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	H	O	O	T	I	N	G	S	T	A	R
B	I	T	T	E	R	E	S	T	■	■	■	O	R	E
E	R	A	S	E	D	■	■	■	M	A	N	U	A	L
A	M	S	■	■	■	S	C	H	O	L	A	R	L	Y
T	A	K	E	S	I	T	O	U	T	O	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T	A	R	M	S
C	A	M	P	A	I	G	N	■	■	■	■	A	I	L
U	S	U	R	P	S	■	E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E
R	E	S	I	L	E	■	R	E	D	A	L	G	A	E
T	A	S	T	E	S	■	S	T	O	N	I	E	S	T

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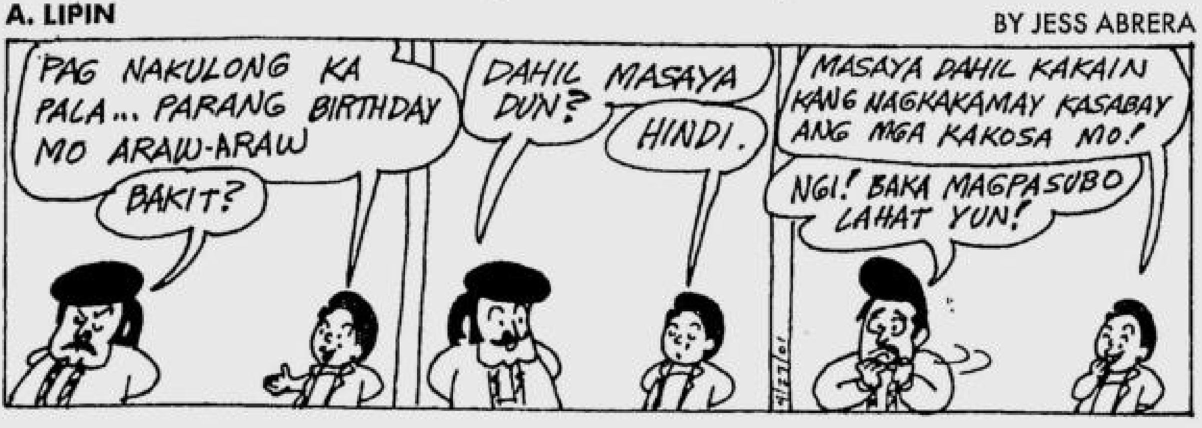
3/12/01

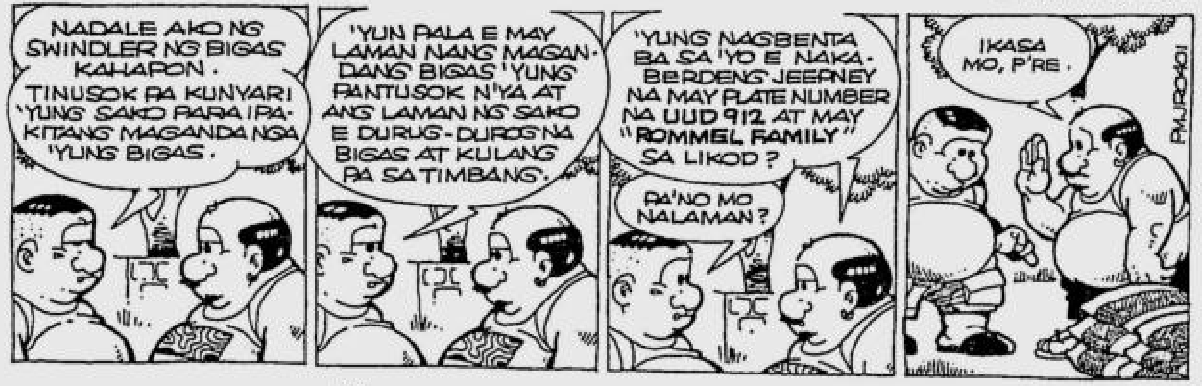
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PAG NAKULONG KA PALA... PARANG BIRTHDAY MO ARAW-ARAW
BAKIT?
DAHIL MASAYA DUN?
HINDI.
MASAYA DAHIL KAKAIN KANG NAGKAKAMAY KASABAY ANG MGA KAKOSA MO!
NGI! BAKA MAGPASUBO LAHAT YUN!

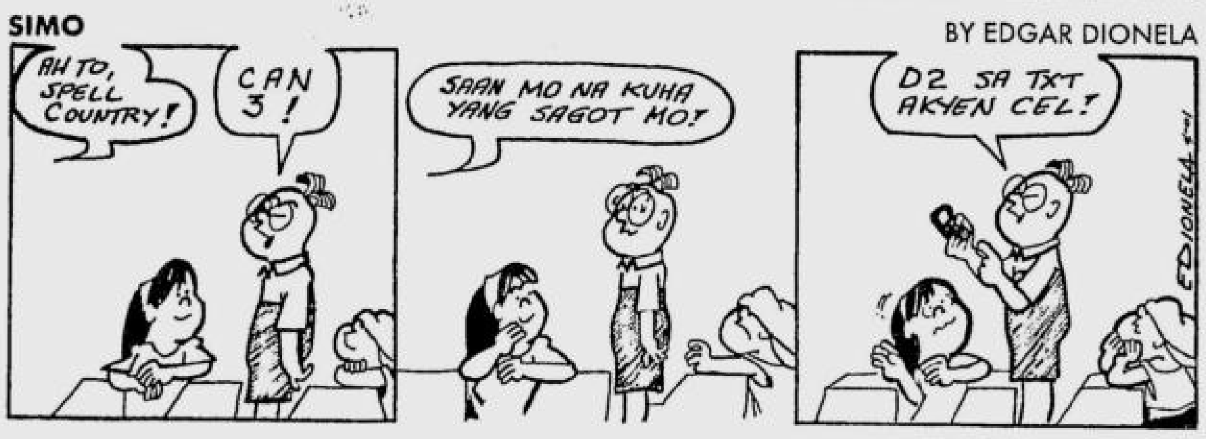
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NADALE AKO NG SWINDLER NG BIGAS KAHAPON.
TINUSOK PA KUNYARI 'YUNG SAKO PARA IPAKITANG MAGANDA NGA 'YUNG BIGAS.
'YUN PALA E MAY LAMAN NANG MAGANDANG BIGAS 'YUNG PANTUSOK N'YA AT ANG LAMAN NG SAKO E DURUG-DUROG NA BIGAS AT KULANG PA SA TIMBANG.
'YUNG NAGBENTA BA SA 'YO E NAKABERDENG JEEPNEY NA MAY PLATE NUMBER NA UUD 912 AT MAY "ROMMEL FAMILY" SA LIKOD?
PA'NO MO NALAMAN?
IKASA MO, P'RE.
PMJR

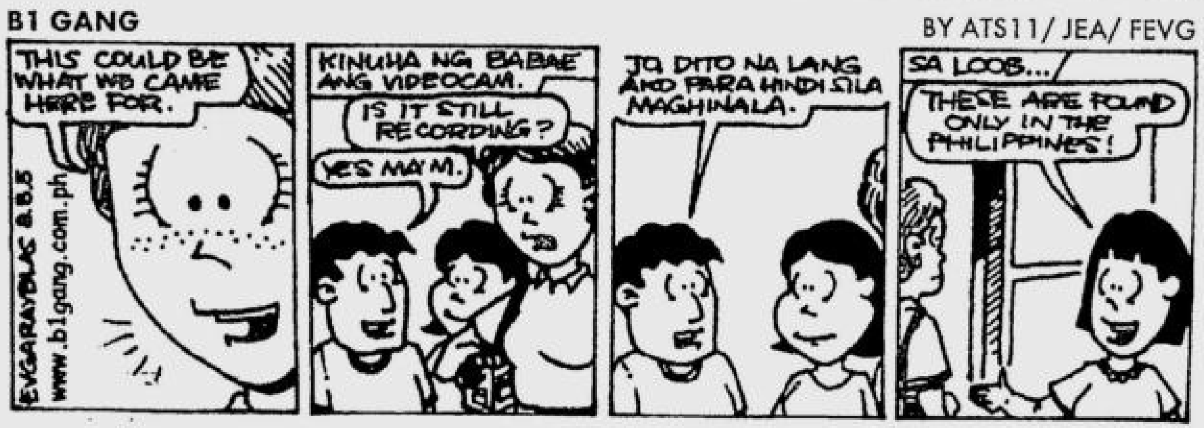
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


AH TO, SPELL COUNTRY!
CAN 3!
SAAN MO NA KUHA YANG SAGOT MO?
D2 SA TXT AKYEN CEL!
EDIONELA

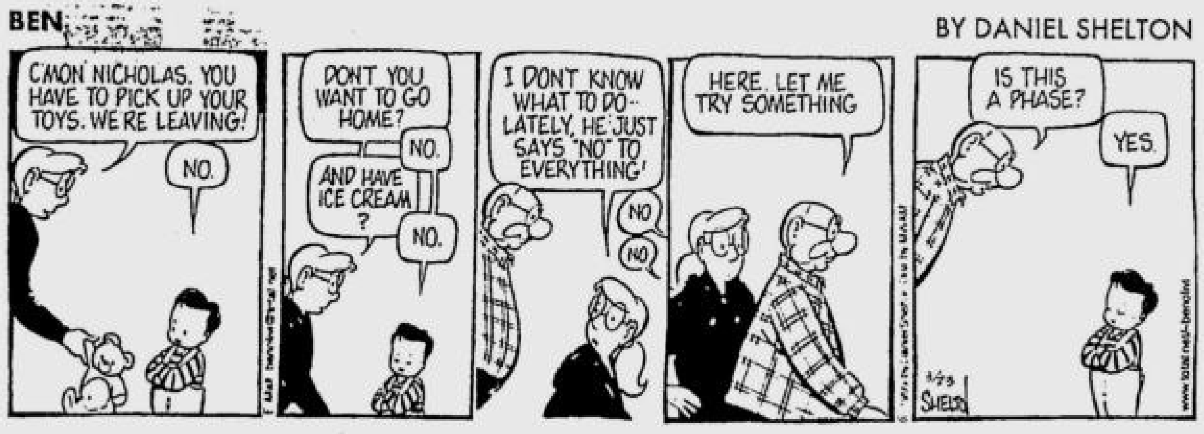
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


THIS COULD BE WHAT WE CAME HERE FOR.
EVGARAYBLAS
www.b1gang.com.ph
KINUHA NG BABAE ANG VIDEOCAM.
IS IT STILL RECORDING?
YES MA'M.
JO DITO NA LANG AKO PARA HINDI SILA MAGHINALA.
SA LOOB...
THESE ARE FOUND ONLY IN THE PHILIPPINES!

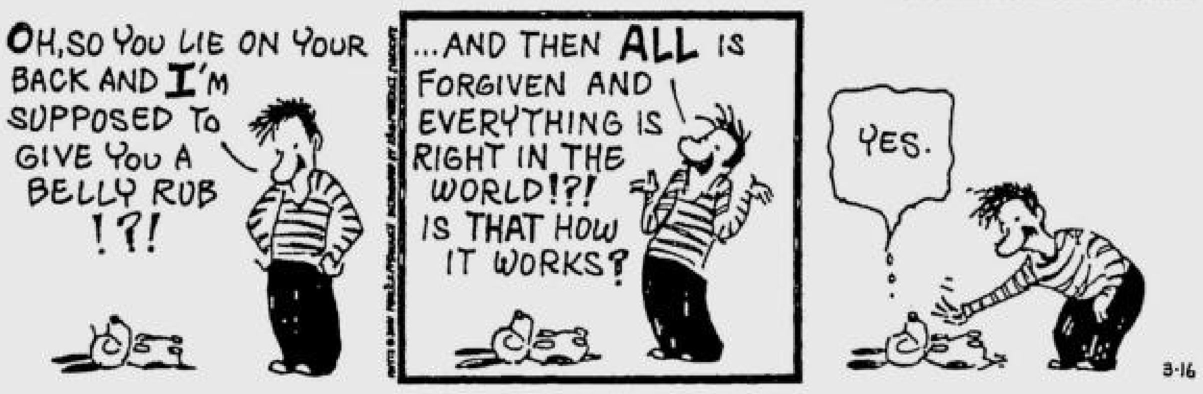
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


C'MON NICHOLAS. YOU HAVE TO PICK UP YOUR TOYS. WE'RE LEAVING!
NO.
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO HOME?
NO.
AND HAVE ICE CREAM?
NO.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO-- LATELY, HE JUST SAYS "NO" TO EVERYTHING!
NO
NO
HERE. LET ME TRY SOMETHING
IS THIS A PHASE?
YES.
SHELTON

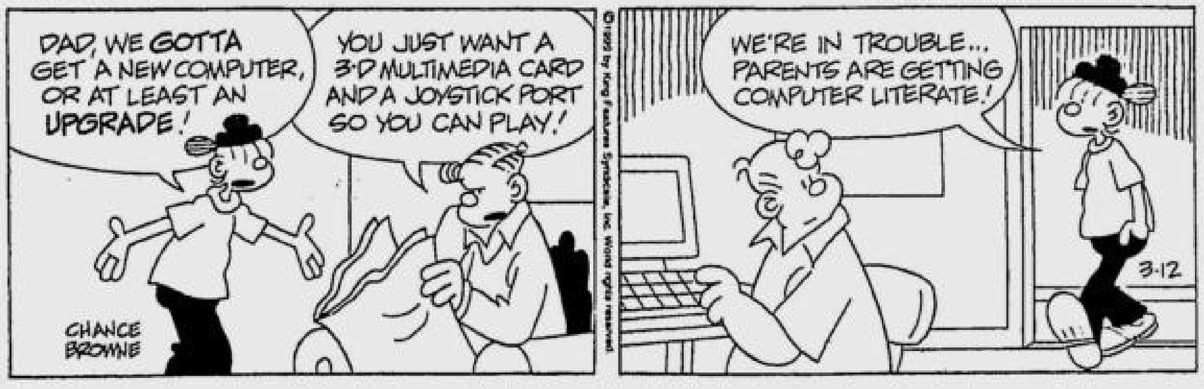
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, SO YOU LIE ON YOUR BACK AND I'M SUPPOSED TO GIVE YOU A BELLY RUB !?!
...AND THEN ALL IS FORGIVEN AND EVERYTHING IS RIGHT IN THE WORLD!?! IS THAT HOW IT WORKS?
YES.
3-16

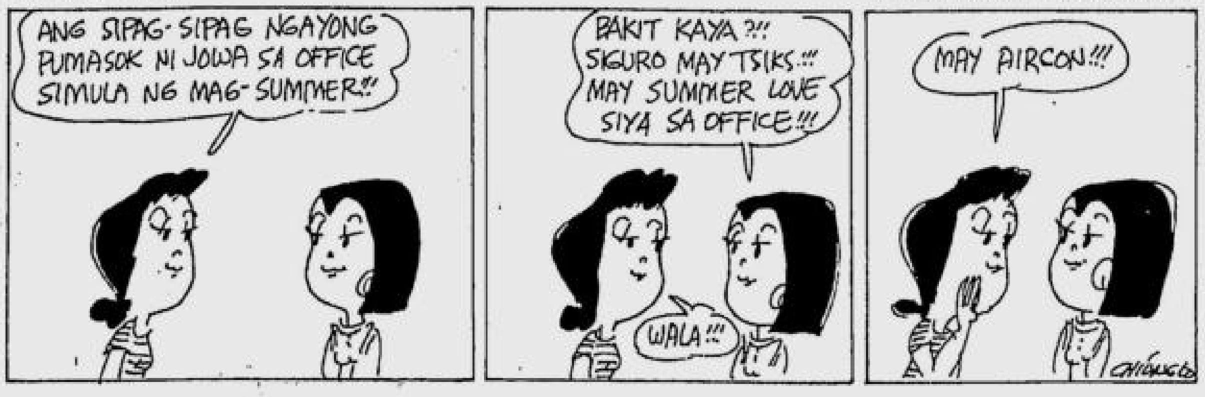
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


DAD, WE GOTTA GET A NEW COMPUTER, OR AT LEAST AN UPGRADE!
YOU JUST WANT A 3-D MULTIMEDIA CARD AND A JOYSTICK PORT SO YOU CAN PLAY!
CHANCE BROWNE
WE'RE IN TROUBLE... PARENTS ARE GETTING COMPUTER LITERATE!
3-12

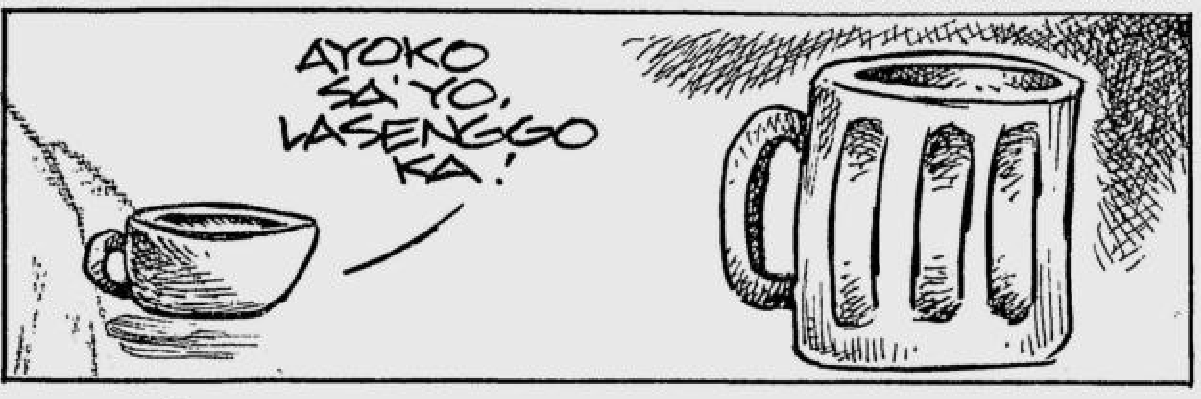
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

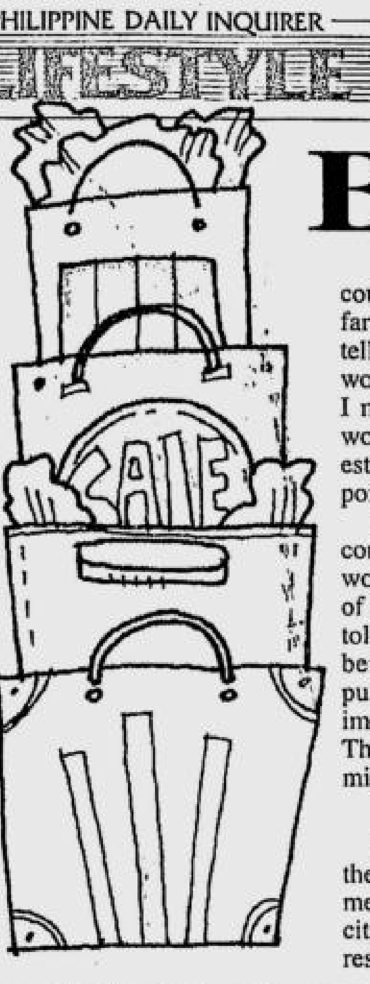

ANG SIPAG-SIPAG NGAYONG PUMASOK NI JOWA SA OFFICE SIMULA NG MAG-SUMMER!!
BAKIT KAYA?!! SIGURO MAY TSIKS!!! MAY SUMMER LOVE SIYA SA OFFICE!!!
WALA!!!
MAY AIRCON!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


AYOKO SA'YO, LASENGGO KA!

Meditations in Bangkok



(From page F3)

ping Center. The World Trade Center is Virra Mall and Shoppesville combined, with so many floors offering a great variety of goods you see at the Greenhills *tiangge* and so-called stalls selling overruns. The Gaysorn Plaza offers more high-end stuff but also carries silver and ethnic items on its upper levels, including designer sterling silver jewelry. Narayana, on the other hand, has all the imaginable Thai ethnic and folk arts that make suckers out of tourists wanting to bring home a piece of the culture in reproduction bronze statues, creations in Thai silk to wear or to decorate your house.

Designer labels at a bargain

Being mad about jewelry, I went somewhat clinically insane trying out the variety of Narayana's Victorian reproductions in sterling silver, onyx and marcasite. There were also rip-offs of Cartier and Piretti designs being sold at about a third of their price tags if and when they find their way to showcases in Manila.

A five- to six-minute nerve-racking cab ride from our hotel brought us to two other monster malls. There was the Siam Center (that offered more of the same stuff at Narayana's) and perhaps one of the most famous destinations for the Filipino tourist—MBK, the Tutuban Mall multiplied by 10. Come to think of it, almost all the goods found at that shoppers' haven in Divisoria seem to have come straight from MBK. Famous for its copies of designer goods, the MBK stalls have Emporio Armani, Chanel, DKNY, Jil Sander, Fendi, Louis Vuitton and, of course, Prada. The items are made as close to the real things but priced as far away as possible from the tags attached to the originals in designer boutiques.

It was literally a plethora of faux items—Abercrombie and Fitch, Polo by Ralph Lauren, Diesel—all begging to be purchased by those who still subscribe to the religion of the "logocentric" dressing. I was shown a cluster of industrial nylon shoulder bags, which the salesgirl proudly announced to have been made in Korea where (her words) "the best imitations" are made. But I pointed out that the familiar metallic triangle said Panda not Prada.

The little Thai lady smiled, raised her hand and said, "Wait!" Aided by a screwdriver and the nimblest hands that side of MBK, she literally plucked out the misguided label and turned it into Prada in a grand total of… uh, 1½ minutes. "Now Prada," she said.

Bargain paradise

The weekend market was something to behold. The first thing we did Saturday morning was to get a cab ride to Chatuchak and check out the reason for all that fuss. True enough, the open-air market was a bargain paradise offering you anything and everything, from natural boulders for landscaping (I kid you not again) to military surplus goods. The stores also offered about 80 percent of products sold in every imaginable stall and even so-called prestigious boutiques in Metro Manila at about one-third the Pinoy price.

Khryss, Jojo and I could have gone completely crazy if it were not for the intolerable heat. Having been raised in the tropics, I thought I knew the meaning of humidity. But the slow walk down the corridors of stalls, where about 25 percent of the Bangkok population and maybe a little bit more than a third of the total number of tourists can be found was something my hard-knock life did not prepare me for. After an hour, I did not need an overeager Thai to throw a pail of water to get me wet from scalp to toenail. I literally sweated right through my clothes and started seeing quadruple.

This was when I realized that I was not a guerrilla shopper. As much as I pooh-pooh all the middle-class values that tend to diminish the excitements of life into the trivia of proper behavior and convention, I became aware of my limitations in enduring natural environmental conditions. Seeing the swarms of people practically going delirious not because of the bargain prices but because of the steam coming from the ground and the skins of fellow humans, I also realized their dedication and single-minded determination to shop until they literally dropped. Dehydration or sunstroke rather than mere commercial fatigue would most likely cause a sudden collapse.

That night, a Thai friend of Jojo Atienza took us out for that one big pig-out. Throughout our stay, we feasted on every available kind of curry available. A lesson immediately learned was one should stick to green curry because the orange or red one would scald your tongue with its spiciness and cause a premature feeling of fullness due to the glasses of water drank to wash out the chili from your mouth.

Tasting the real thing

Food was unbelievably cheap, especially if you were not the kind who would pay for the ambience rather than the quality of the dishes offered. You can be rendered immobile by the amount of food you get for an amount equivalent to P200 per person.

We were not prepared for Silom Village, a popular restaurant that made me realize all the Chicken Pandan I had consumed in Thai restaurants in Manila were mere parodies. Gorging on catfish salad with shredded green mangoes, yet another variation of green beef curry and the most delicious rice cakes, I was alarmed by the amount of dieting that would be required when I got home if I wanted to retain my rights to a passable waistline.

On our last day, we decided to invade the River City Antique Center located right beside the Royal Orchid Sheraton.

There can only be one way to describe my immediate reaction about this place: it's salivating.

From the moment we entered the lobby, I knew I was in major trouble. This newfound passion for Southeast Asian folk arts, most especially those endless imports from Bali, Indonesia, has somewhat diminished the focus on Filipiniana products. There was an arts and crafts display at the River City lobby where the most beautiful Thai fabrics—not only silks but also beautifully embroidered, encrusted and even block-stamped materials—were sold. Throw pillows made from fragments of vintage clothing sold at about P1,500 each. Beautiful maroon throw pillows block-stamped with gold designs came cheap at about P330 apiece. I was calculating how much I would have to pay Thai Airlines for excess weight.

But it was the upper floors that completely blew our minds. Levels upon levels of antique shops sold the most beautiful Buddhas from Burma and Cambodia. These were not the brass or even resin reproductions sold at the night market in Patpong but rather intricately carved pieces preserved in the most graceful and loving manner possible.

Suddenly I was overcome by a kind of catharsis that results from having a limited budget and modest income. A 6-ft high 18th-century Buddha from Cambodia with a stunning face cost 150,000 baht (translate that to P165,000). *Mura*! Comparing this to how much those items cost here in Manila, the tag price (without haggling *pa yan, ha*?) was more than reasonable: But reason told me that I couldn't afford to push this adventure any farther than my purchases at MBK. I kept telling myself that the shipment cost to Manila would make the price sky high and impractical. I made the mistake of asking how much it would cost to ship the piece to Manila. The estimated price was about P4,400. At that point, I cried.

I consoled myself by focusing on my social conscience, by convincing myself that my life would not be any better if that gorgeous piece of Asian art was not deposited in my foyer. I told myself I needed a psychiatrist, that I was being selfish, careless to even think of purchasing such an item that would not improve the plight of my Third World nation. That gave me peace for three minutes and misery for the next three days.

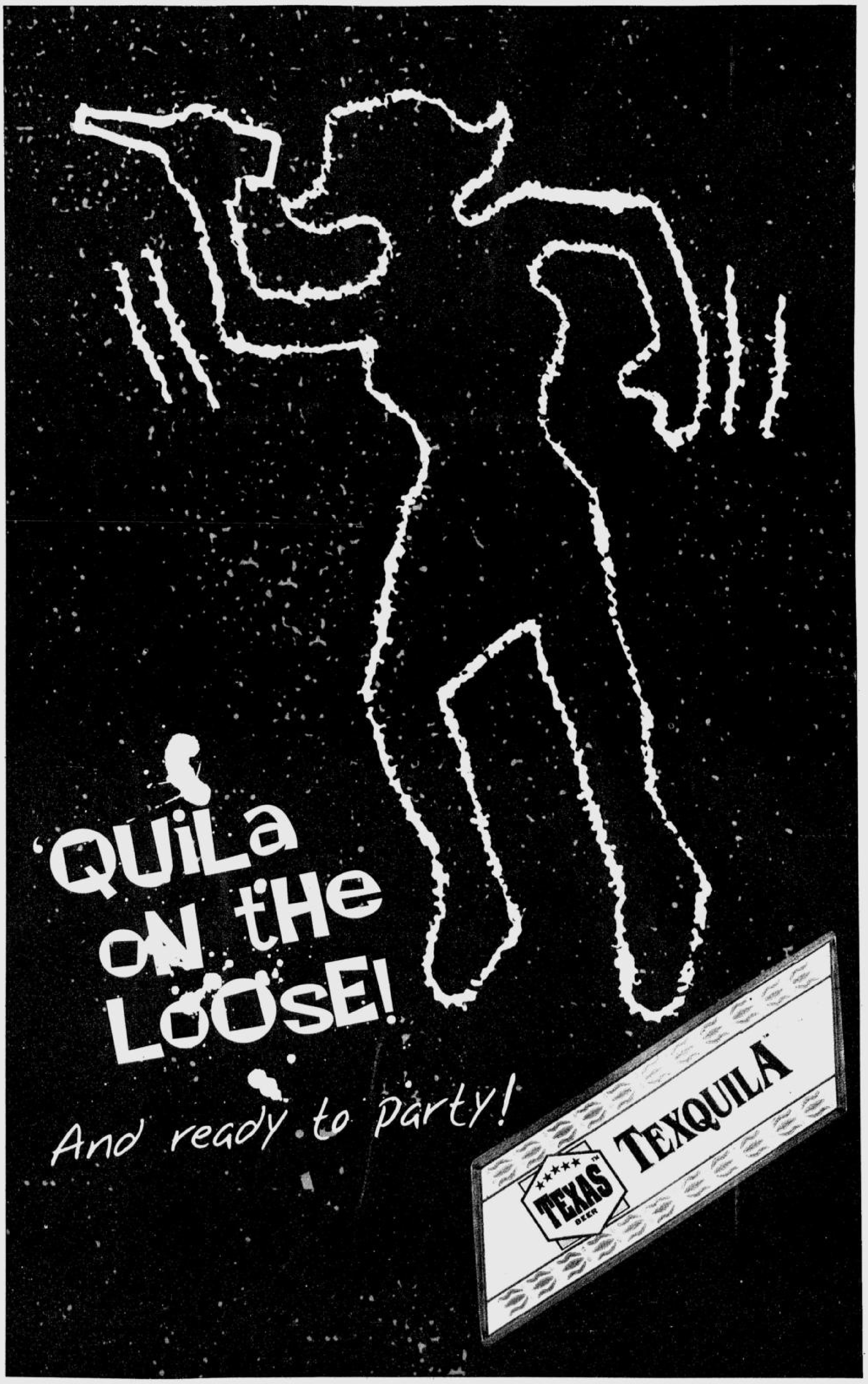
A tourist favorite

Despite all our adventures in improving the world economy and trade, I realized at the mere sight of the infrastructure in the capital city of Thailand how much Manila and the rest of our dear republic has been left behind. Moreover, the quality of service and the variety of offerings of our Asean neighbor made it inevitable that tourists would be swarming there like bees in a hive.

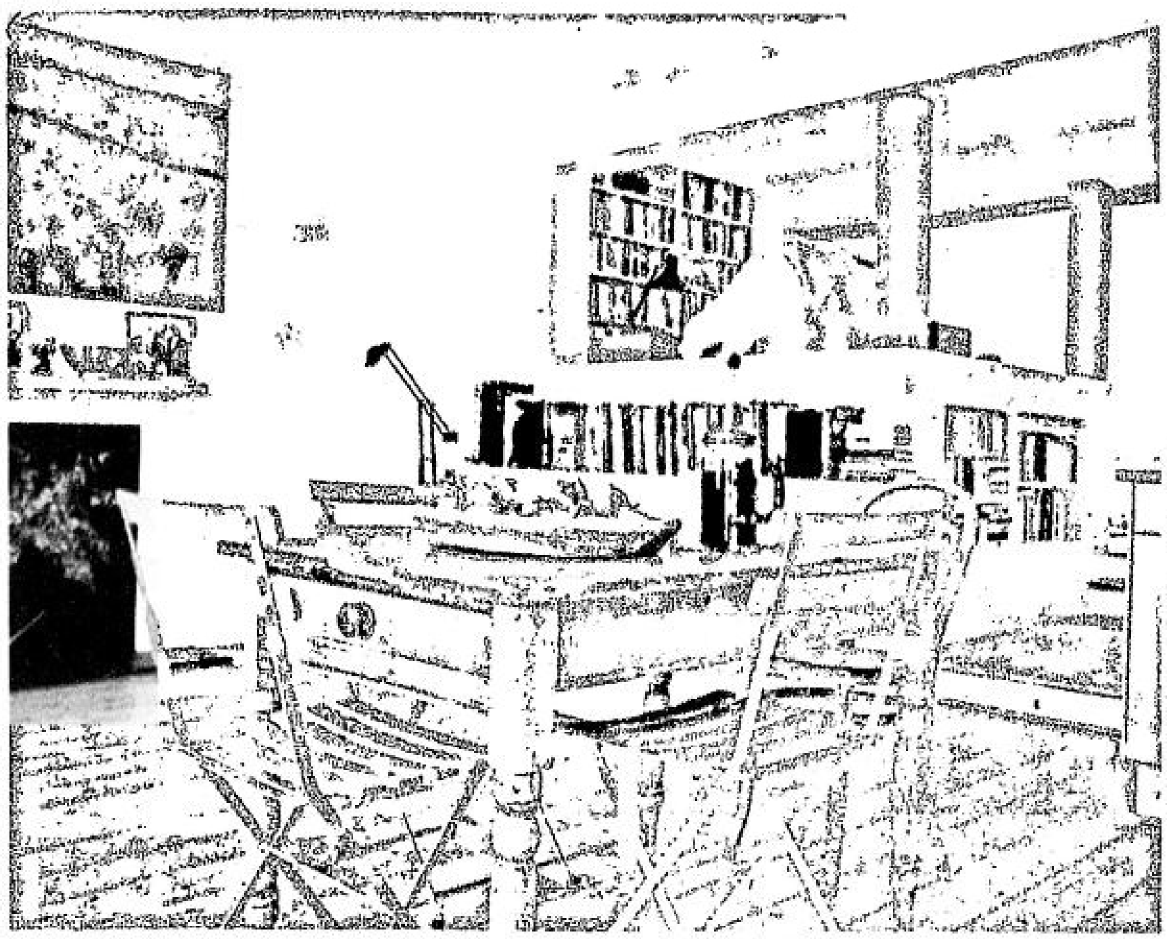
Some dynamic and exciting event was continuously taking place, pumping economic life into that country through tourism. Even if Thai cab drivers could make their Filipino counterparts look like saints on the road, no one was ripping off any awkward tourist…not unless you were a willing victim or came from a genetic pool overflowing with nincompoops. The honesty of the people mixed with their charm proved so much more alluring than any bargain offered by the stores.

A typical question asked of anyone who spends a few days in Bangkok is: "Did you get to see any of the shows in Patpong (the red-light district and shopping center)?"

Yes, we did. What we saw made me cringe. I realized that the scenes I shot of the sexual gymnastics in my most celebrated and controversial movie looked like they came from a Walt Disney movie. In Bangkok, "Live Show" would have looked like "Tanging Yaman."


'QUiLa ON tHe LOOSE!
And ready to party!
TEXAS BEER
TEXQUILA

THERE are no obvious kitchen cabinets above the height of the work surface. The white and steel decorative theme is easy to live with and visually consistent; the refrigerator handles are echoed on the cabinets (1) the steel-edged range (2) is modern, but adds a welcoming feel to the room. Stainless steel sinks (3) give stylish practicality for food preparation and washing dishes.



HORIZONTAL "lines" are everywhere, achieved by the raised floor, lengths of bookcases, rattan blinds and the rectangular shape created by the dividing wall, making a narrow space seem wider. This device is carried through to the kitchen, with long cabinet handles, and by painting the kick-board white at the base, the lines "float" horizontally on the wall. A removable metal strip makes a neat junction between the wall and countertop.

Small spaces can go a long way

No room for much else? This book tells you how to find the solution to the problem from corners, staircases and other unlikely areas

Spaces for Living
By Liz Bauwens and Alexandra Campbell
Clarkson N. Potter/Publishers,
New York, 1999

By Mercedes Reyes

MANY decorating books work with the assumption that you have a sprawling house with several spacious rooms. But what do you do with a cramped townhouse or a one-room studio apartment?

REVIEW

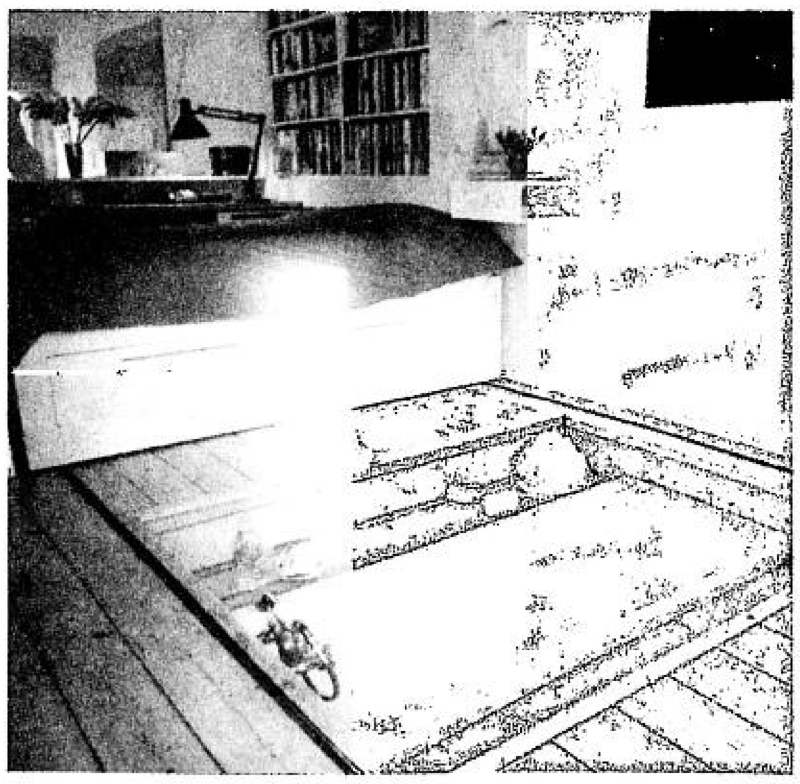
Bauwens and Campbell's "Spaces for Living" addresses the modern problem of using limited space to meet multiple needs. Through real-life case studies—young parents, freelancers who work at home, large families living in a one-floor flat—the book emphasizes multifunction rooms and maximum storage. And, best of all, the decorators give various tips on creating an illusion of space and simplicity.

For example, "Spaces for Living" urges readers to look for unlikely sources of space, particularly in corners and staircases. Can you transform the steps into drawers, or line the hollow underneath the stairs with bookshelves? Can you add shelves to existing cabinets, or free some space by transferring some items to hooks or hanging drawers? Should you go for a computer table or a large table with built-in drawers that can eliminate the need for filing cabinets and soften the "office" look? Each example provokes questions that will help you evaluate what you have or need to change. And, in many cases, the solution seems so simple you'll wonder why you never thought of it before.

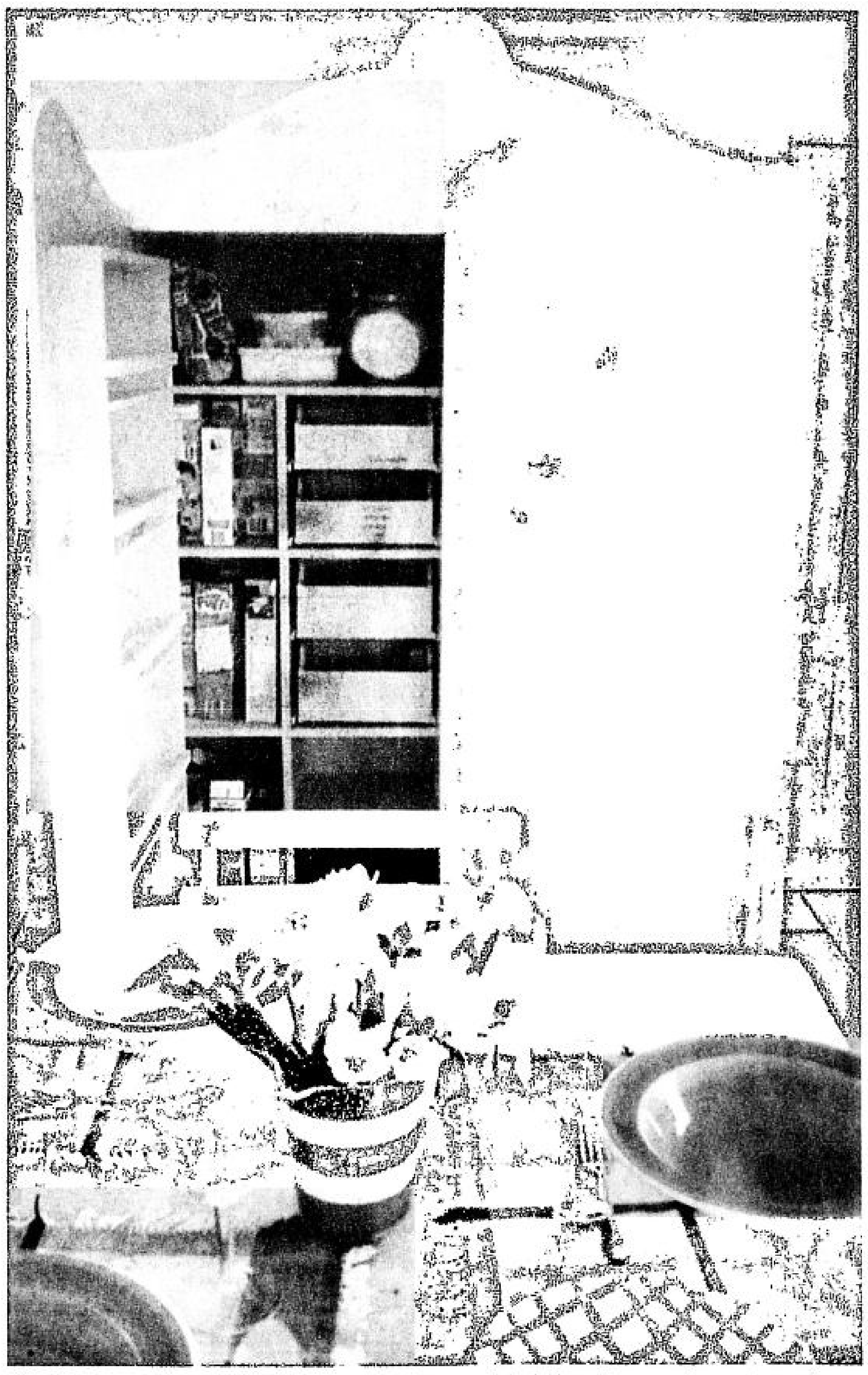
Simple solutions

"Spaces for Living" also gives various suggestions on how to quickly shift a room's role according to the needs of the moment. Hide your home office with a curtain or a sliding panel and, suddenly, you're back in your relaxing bedroom. Child-proof your kitchen so you can safely prepare food while your children run around the work area. Switch from one kind of lighting to another so a living room/receiving area transforms into a study hall. The book centers on how to divide areas without walls or obtrusive accessories so you can achieve the right mood or look without having to redecorate.

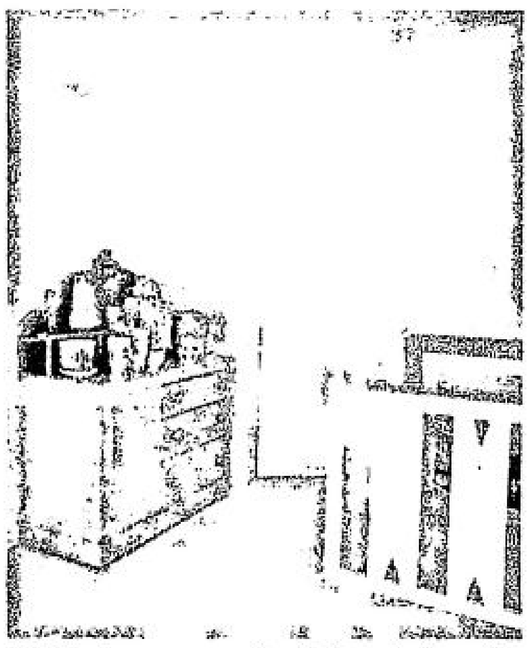
The authors also considered how a family's needs and personalities can change over time. They designed a nursery that "grows" with the child: the built-in crib with overhead space is ideal for a toddler with a lot of blankets and toys. Later the crib is transformed into a study desk and the child can sleep on the bunker bed. The colors are retained—no repainting!—but the ambience matures by simple replacements of accessories.



THE BATH ready for use, with the bed sliding back toward the desk area.



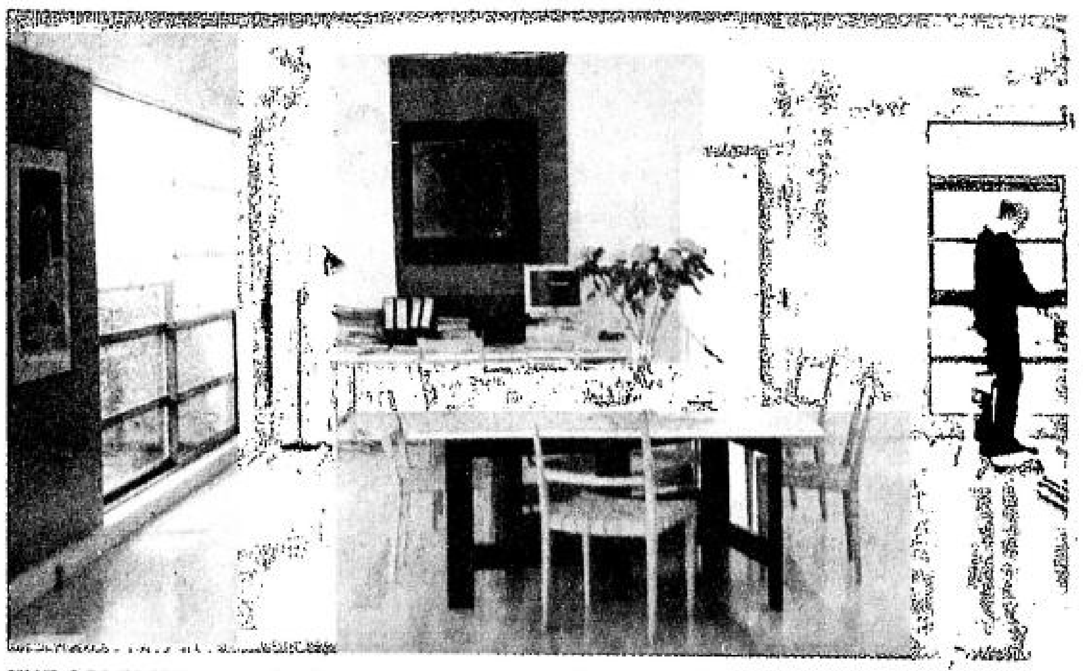
CUSTOM-DESIGNED storage means making special shelves for cereals and mounting narrow ones on the doors.



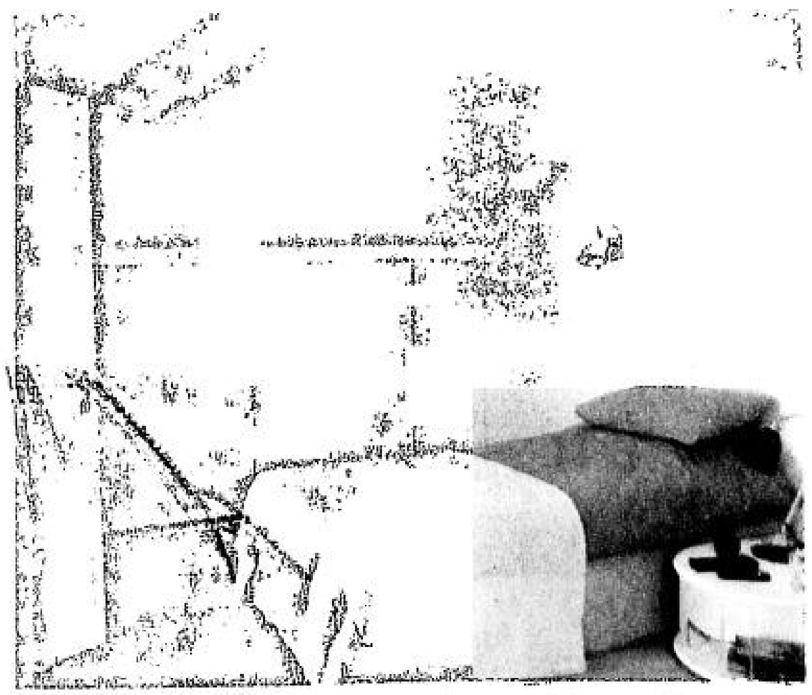
TWO bedrooms open directly into what was the main bedroom of the cottage. Now it is a peaceful den (inset) lined almost invisibly with essential storage. Having closets and chests of drawers on the landing also helps to keep the bedrooms free and uncluttered.

The book is easily written for busy people who don't have time to wade through text for the information they need. Colorful pictures concretize the tips; sidebars and pull-down boxes summarize them. The chapters are also organized to address the homeowner's lifestyle, not the decorating look. Does your kitchen have to act as a dining room and a play area for the kids? Do you need a home office within your bedroom? It also works with the apartment's existing architecture? Is there a stairway? Do you have a patio or an attic? The problem-solution format is so straightforward readers will know what to do even without an interior design degree.

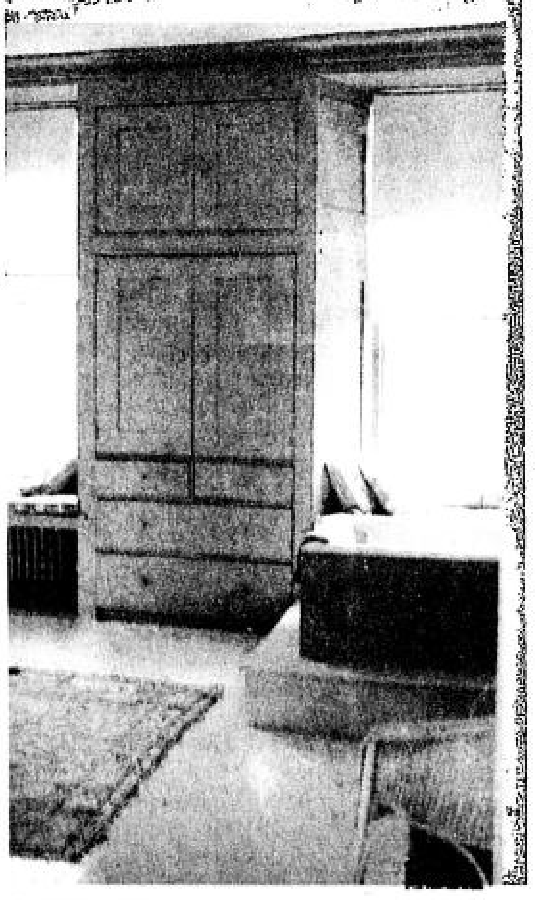
The only problem is that some of the decorating ideas may require major purchases and carpentry work. And if you rent an apartment, you might not be willing to pay for built-in cabinets that you can't take with you when you move. Installing shelves is a more mobile alternative. The multifunctional furniture looks classy, but they're also usually the most expensive in the store. Still, the book is a good buy—if only to give you an idea of what to do and save up for. In any case, it will still be less costly than moving to a bigger house.



THE COLORED panels behind each picture were painted in an afternoon, and could be changed again just as quickly.



A TABLE on wheels can be moved easily around the room, if necessary.



CUPBOARD doors open to reveal shelves.

PLAY of light colors and proportion make dining area spacious.

SANTAROSA model unit

Excellent designs at limited budget

FOR A GROWING number of Filipinos, having a nicely done interior is increasingly a must.

At Santarosa Estates 2 in Laguna, house and lots are sold anywhere between P2.7 million (90 sqm) and P6.5 million (135 sqm). The consultancy firm of Erfe and Associates, headed by Alice Erfe, has been tapped by Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. (LPHI), a subsidiary of Ayala Land Inc., to make stylish havens of each home in the community. All three models—Dominica (90-110 sq m), Antigua (110-135 sq. m.) and Grenada (135-165 sq m)—bear Erfe's trademark interior design attributes: Homey, cozy and affordable.

Inspired by the homeowners themselves, as Erfe puts it, the designs were guided by a Frank Lloyd Wright principle—"Form follows function"—in addition to having a structurally sound house using world-class French building technology. Erfe also made sure Santarosa Estates 2 unit designs adhere to the budget considerations of homeowners.

Erfe and Associates designed the interiors for three imaginary families—a young family, a retired couple with grownup kids and an interior designer with her family. Keeping in mind their different needs, activities, lifestyles, age levels and income, Erfe came up with interior designs that can be easily transformed into specific personal statements of other homeowners with similar profiles.

Erfe points out that all items were sourced locally: 95 percent indigenous or locally fabricated. Only about 5 percent is imported.

"Each section designed has special accents, whether in terms of the furniture selections, artworks, accessories, fabrics, window treatment or colors. We tried to apply subtle tricks of design to highlight the positive aspects of each room and camouflage less attractive spaces," says Erfe.

"With the careful use of colors, light, texture, proportion, balance, symmetry and contrast, we tried to accommodate all furnishing requirements while making spaces seem larger and wider. The accessories, artifacts, artworks and plants added flair and touches of elegance," she adds.

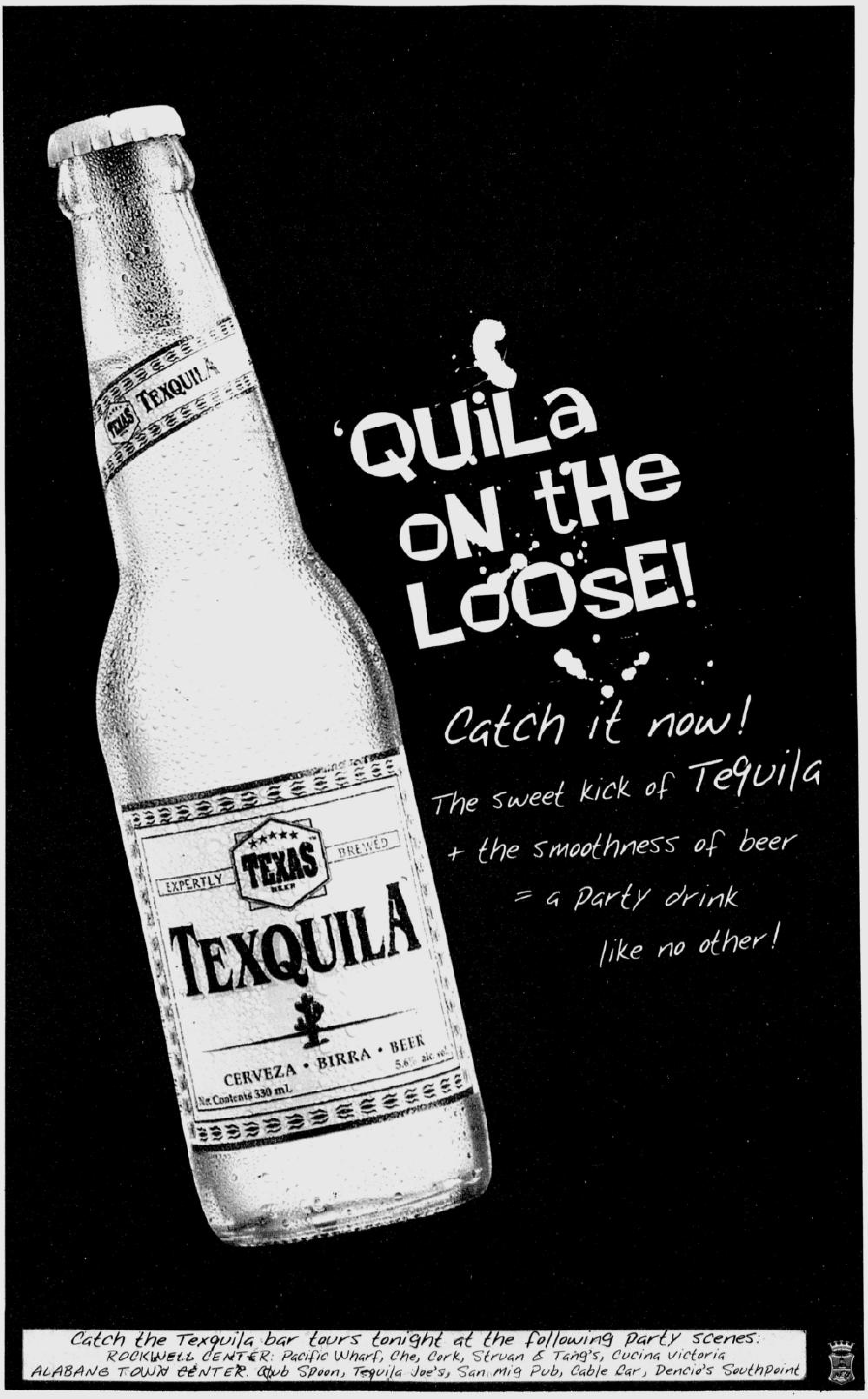
For yuppies and young couples aspiring to have tasteful yet very affordable interiors, Erfe has the following tips:

- To start, invest in very good, basic furniture that last: Sofa—good proportion, comfortable but simple; dining set—functional, comfortable but stylish; and bed—comfortable but durable. Estimated investment is from P40,000-50,000.
- All other furnishing selections shall accent and complement the first choices.
- Remember that simplicity is beauty. Choices to last through the years are pieces of good design, material, proportion and function.
- Slipcovers, rugs, mirrors, lamps, framed artworks, artifacts, plants, flowers and accessories are things that enhance, accent, camouflage, harmonize and unite different elements.
- Furnish with flexibility in mind. For small spaces, consider light furniture that are easy to rearrange to suit various activities.
- There are so many good sources—factories, malls, small stores, even *tiangge*—you just need imagination and good taste. You can acquire ideas from magazines, books and showcases that stores all over town offer. With P10,000-15,000, you can already buy a lot of useful, attractive home décor.
- If you're just starting with a limited budget, focus on basic furnishings first. You can also combine buying per piece and made-to-order for an interesting, stylish mix.

What makes each Santarosa Estates home highly desirable is the use of the Phenix Building System, a French-based technology that assures sturdy, high-quality structural integrity while providing an ideal background for interior designing because of its simple architectural design.

The Phenix System also allows faster interior designing because of a shorter construction time as well as easier installation in walls, particularly since Santarosa Estates make use of gypsum boards as basic wall material.

Just a note for those planning to have their interiors designed: Costing does not depend entirely on house size. Additional factors like layout and orientation of rooms must also be considered.


TEXAS BEER
EXPERTLY BREWED
TEXQUILA
CERVEZA • BIRRA • BEER
Net Contents 330 mL
'QUiLa ON tHe LOOSE!
Catch it now!
The sweet kick of Tequila
+ the smoothness of beer
= a party drink
like no other!
Catch the Texquila bar tours tonight at the following party scenes:
ROCKWELL CENTER: Pacific Wharf, Che, Cork, Struan & Tang's, Cucina victoria
ALABANG TOWN CENTER: Club Spoon, Tequila Joe's, San Mig Pub, Cable Car, Dencio's Southpoint

Why Malaya must fly free

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THERE seems to be a growing awareness that environmental education must begin early. Proof of this is the increasing number of children's books on environmental subjects that are as diverse as the wildlife in our forests and seas.

The latest such book is a small volume (most children's books are small) called "Fly, Malaya, Fly!," which tells of the plight of a Philippine eaglet, written by a young man, Juan Ruffo (JR for short) Chong and his mother, Grace. It is beautifully illustrated by advertising artist and art director Longlong Pesquira. The Chongs hope the book inculcates a, sense of pride in the Philippine eagle, our national bird, and a sense of urgency of the need to save it from extinction.

In this, the book can be likened to Felix Salter's "Bambi," whose moving tale about a young deer who loses his mother by hunters' bullets, made people aware of the senseless killing of wildlife in the forests and led to legislation to protect those animals.

"Fly, Malaya, Fly!" is also about a mother's desire to see her child free, in this case, to roam the skies—and of her ultimate sacrifice to make this happen.

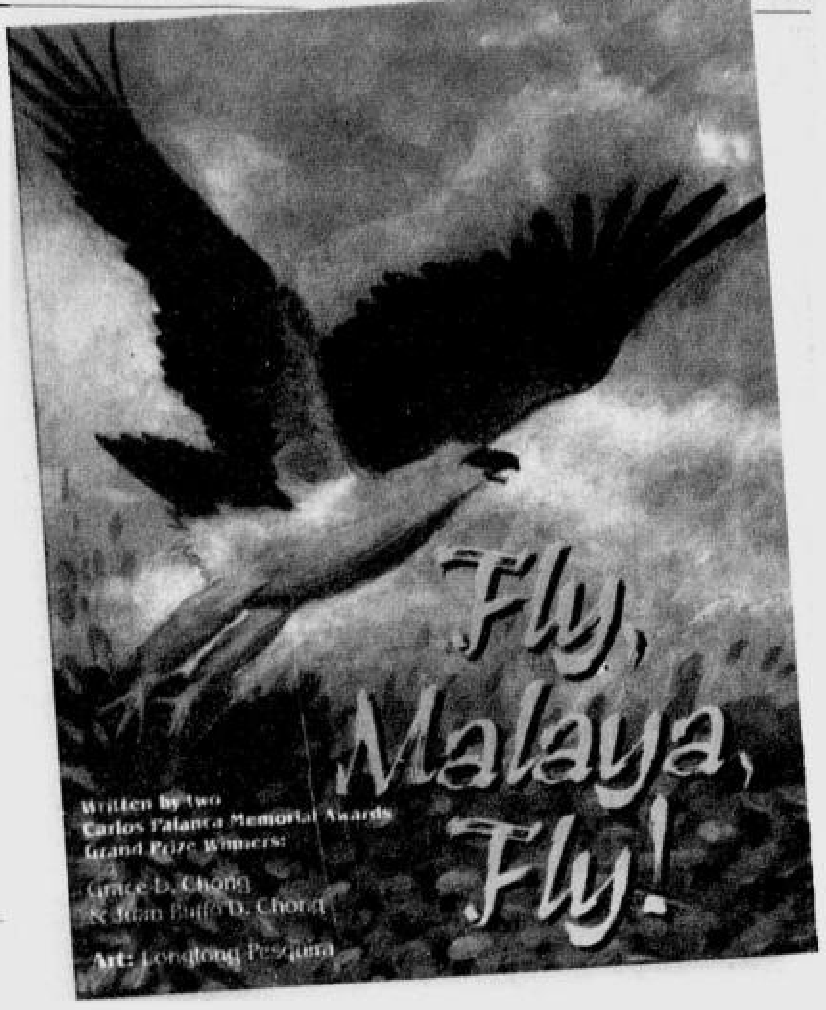
It is said that the day the book was launched in Davao City was the very day a new government was installed at the Edsa Shrine in Manila. The authors saw this as doubly significant.

Malaya is the name of an eaglet. Just learning to fly, its mother anxious for him to learn fast because there were hunters who meant danger. He could save himself only by flying swiftly away.

To the Chongs, an eagle free to soar the skies, to live as nature intended it to do, in its aeries atop trees and mountains, represents the Filipino's continuous struggle throughout his history to free himself from all sorts of suppression and oppression.

To JR, Edsa I in 1986 was a type of unshackling, and young as he was then, it was the inspiration for an essay he was to write later about an eagle called Malaya. He had been at the first People Power convergence. His father had brought him along to witness the events, perched on his shoulders. He heard the song, "Bayan Ko," and one particular phrase in it, "*Ibon man may layang lumipad...* (like a bird wishing to fly free)" And he was to remember it later, in grade three, when he joined an essay contest and found the story of an eagle a fitting theme.

That first essay did not win, but his mother saw that such an environmental topic had great potential. So, she stored it carefully away. JR tried again, and there began a winning streak. He joined the essay contest held by the National Youth Commission on Mass Media in 1997 and won first place; in 1998, he placed second in the Magsaysay Awards for Literature; in 1999, he copped first place in the Metro Rail essay contest; second place and grand prize in 1998 and 1999, respectively, in the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards.



Now 18, JR is taking up a legal management course at the De La Salle University. He hopes someday to make use of this legal specialization in the environmental awareness campaign in which he and his mother intend to be active. Grace Chong is her son's perfect partner (or is it the other way around?). Formerly an EVP in a multinational ad agency, she opted to go on retirement to spend more time with her husband, Tony, and three sons (JC, JB and the youngest, JR). Herself a writer, she is also a grand prize-winner in the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards, children's story category.

Aware of the campaign to conserve the endangered Philippine eagle, she remembered JR's first essay and brought it out of storage.

Apart from lessons on compassion for living things and family values, the story of Malaya struck her as timely with all the ingredients as an effective educational and environmental tool for children.

So she and JR worked on it and the essay eventually became a book. It had full support of Caltex which was tapped because of its many environmental involvements. The Chongs also got in touch with Dennis Salvador, executive director of the Philippine Eagle Foundation, who was only too glad to get the writing team on his side. The Chongs have since then volunteered to participate in the Foundation's awareness campaign.

All in all, JR and his mom have discovered a new world out of their Philippine eagle experience—and they're soaring in elation.

Next: The Philippine Eagle Foundation

Make cleaning a breeze

3M, the Minneapolis-based company that manufactures innovative products for home and industry, recently launched two of its latest Scotch-Brite products—the Scratch-Free Light Duty Scrubber and the High Performance Cleaning Cloth.

The scrubber looks like your ordinary sponge pad for dishwashing except the Scotch-Brite version contains embedded minerals in its webs that provide that inimitable combination of "powerful yet gentle" cleaning action that leaves Teflon pans, priceless china, cut-glass crystal goblets, silverware, delicate utensils and even bathroom tiles clean, clear and without a scratch.

The new style scrubber now comes in a ribbon shape so that its center is nipped to ensure a better grip. It also has colorful fun designs of citrus, daisies and shells calculated to appeal to children and perhaps inspire them to scrub away, too.

The second product is the Cleaning Cloth, which Nena Amen, 3M Philippines Home Care Division manager, describes as a specialized cloth that can be used for sensitive surfaces like glasses, CDs and computers. "The soft fibers of the cloth assures consumers of scratch-free cleaning in all household wiping applications," she says. "It is made up of fine, ribbon-like micro fibers that pick up dirt and oil from any surface without scattering or smearing."

There will be three kinds of High Performance Cleaning Cloths in the market, according to Efi de Castro, senior marketing analyst. There is the all-purpose cloth that can be used to clean ugly fingerprints on your glass windows or greasy tabletops, precious jewelry and even cars. There is also a lens cleaning cloth for eyeglasses, and another for CDs and DVDs.

The advantage of this specialized cloth, adds Amen, is that as it reduces the need for chemical-based cleansers, it also reduces the amount of pollutants released to the environment, and the company makes some profit from the reduction. She cites Germany as an example. In 1997, Germany earned big savings by not using 2.2 million liters of floor-cleaning agents, 1.7 million liters of sanitary detergents and 540,000 liters of alcohol cleaning agents, all of which translated into savings of several million deutsche marks.

Since 1974, the company has eliminated the use of 18 million pounds of polluting materials from its products and processes. And yet it has come up with two new products that not only clean more efficiently, but save cleaning time as well.

Sheila Nichols, 3M Philippines managing director, says her company's environmental policies include the 3P principles—Pollution Prevention Pays—in many of its manufacturing processes. Applying 3P, she says, means preventing pollution before it starts.

The search for more biodegradable products is a never-ending one for 3M scientists. The company claims that 7 percent of its sales go back to the development of new products. It expects to do even better with time since the ideal figure is 20 percent of sales.

3M products range from the sponge scrubbers mentioned earlier (it was one of the first introduced when the company began operations here in 1964), to the "Scotch tapes" (now a generic term) for wrapping, sealing and repairing different objects, reflective material, car tint, scotch-print graphics and Buf-Puf sponges, down to Post-It notes and markers.

According to Ves Arboleda, Human Resources Department senior manager, there are more than 10,000 3M products distributed to various industries in the Philippines, and 60,000 worldwide. The reason for the difference is simply a matter of climatic conditions here that do not warrant the use of those other products.

Doris Nuyda

For dance-aholics.

3rd level • Power Plant Mall • Rockwell Center

Catch the Eraserheads, True Faith, Barbie's Cradle, Mojofly, 3rd Angle, and more LIVE at the Launch Party! April 27, 2001 (Friday) at 5:30 pm.
dronex mix
original mix
underground club mix
knee deep classic club mix
english riviera mix
deep swing club mix
MUSIC VIDEO

Natasha's MARCH ROSTER OF WINNERS

Gilda de Guzman
2nd Top Group Seller
- Owns 14 Dealer Outlets in Mangaldan, Malasique, Alaminos, San Carlos City, Urdaneta, Dagupan, Lingayen, Binalonan, Pangasinan • Baguio City • Camiling, Tarlac • Santiago, Isabela • San Jose, Nueva Ecija • Solano, Nueva Vizcaya • San Fernando, La Union
- 2nd Top Group Seller - Feb 2001
- 3rd Top Group Seller of the Year 2000

Keith Jayson Hidalgo
4th Top Group Seller
- Owns 3 Dealer Outlets in Bangued, Abra • La Trinidad, Benguet • Agoo, La Union
- 3rd Top Group Seller - Feb 2001
- 2nd Top Group Seller - Jan 2001 - Dec 2000
- Top Recruiter - Feb 2001

Gina De Guzman
Top Recruiter

Gina Sumayod
1st Top Group Seller & Best Credit Record
- Owns 10 Dealer Outlets in Apalit, Angeles, Florida Blanca, Macabebe, Pampaga • Iba, Castillejos, Botolan, Masinloc, San Marino, Zambales • Mariveles, Bataan
- 1st Top Group Seller - Feb 2001 - Jan 2001
- Top Group Seller of the Year 2000
- Best Credit Record - Feb 2001 - Jan 2001
- Best Credit Record of the Year 2000

Zijema Imperio
3rd Top Group Seller
- Owns 5 Dealer Outlets in Valenzuela, Metro Manila • Laoag, Badoc, Ilocos Norte • Vigan, Ilocos Sur • San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
- 5th Top Group Seller - Feb 2001 - Dec 2000
- 3rd Top Group Seller - Jan 2001

Aileen Barrion
5th Top Group Seller
- Owns 3 Dealer Outlets in Hagonoy, Meycauyan, Baliwag, Bulacan

Be a Natasha Dealer!
Natasha makes your dreams come true.

LIFESTYLE

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Early morning appointment with my angel

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

YOU may not buy this, I'm not sure I do either, but it's not every day that you get an appointment with your "angel," so I grabbed it. Made time for it, in fact—on a Saturday morning.

It's no joke to be up at 7 a.m. on a Saturday and doing the South Expressway traffic, when you should be overstaying in bed. But I was curious. **Gilda Cordero Fernando** and **Mariel Francisco** had told me about this "angel counselor" months ago, about their enlightening sessions with him, and made an appointment for me twice, so I was not about to stand up this third.

The bungalow in Loyola Heights housing the Center for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra), a holistic community center which Mariel and kindred souls have put up, has a calming effect on you, perhaps because its '50s architecture reminds you of a time long gone, of an uncomplicated lifestyle hardly possible now. The garden isn't manicured, thus unpretentious; the jalousie windows, the high ceilings, the wooden flooring brought to mind the bungalow of your teen years, where the free-flowing airy space assured your parents a full living-room vista of what you were doing with your visitors—from your mom's kitchen. That kind of nostalgia.

The "counselor," **Nonoy Ozaeta**, received me in a room.

"So what do you want to ask your angel?" he opened our one-on-one.

Huh? I didn't know we'd be three. Actually I didn't think of any, I really don't have.issues to raise with my angel, I said.

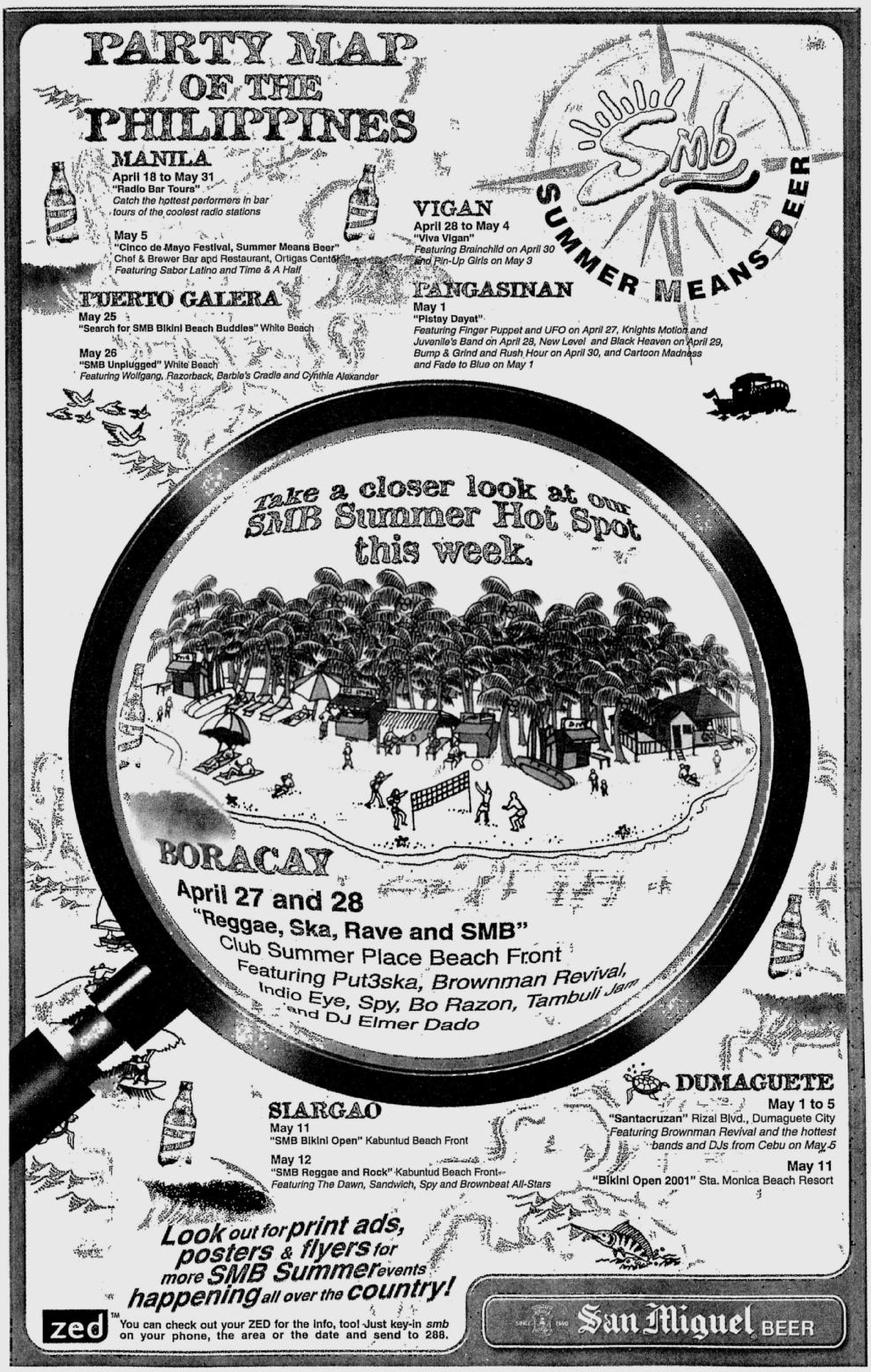
What I want to know, I said, is how he got into talking to his and other people's angels. Nonoy, an architect with an active practice who also teaches architecture at UP, said it began in 1993. He was at home having his *merienda* one afternoon when a young man popped up before him. The man was happy, even frolicsome.

They "talked"—but Nonoy qualified, "it wasn't the way you and I talk, it's communicating not through the mind, but here," he pointed to his heart.

Not an imagination

"He stuck with me for a good two weeks and I learned so much about my life then that I didn't know before. Like seeing the bigger pic-

EARLY/ p.G3



PARTY MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES

MANILA
April 18 to May 31
"Radio Bar Tours"
Catch the hottest performers in bar tours of the coolest radio stations
May 5
"Cinco de Mayo Festival, Summer Means Beer"
Chef & Brewer Bar and Restaurant, Ortigas Center
Featuring Sabor Latino and Time & A Half

PUERTO GALERA
May 25
"Search for SMB Bikini Beach Buddies" White Beach
May 26
"SMB Unplugged" White Beach
Featuring Wolfgang, Razorback, Barbie's Cradle and Cynthia Alexander

VIGAN
April 28 to May 4
"Viva Vigan"
Featuring Brainchild on April 30 and Pin-Up Girls on May 3

PANGASINAN
May 1
"Pistay Dayat"
Featuring Finger Puppet and UFO on April 27, Knights Motion and Juvenile's Band on April 28, New Level and Black Heaven on April 29, Bump & Grind and Rush Hour on April 30, and Cartoon Madness and Fade to Blue on May 1

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Take a closer look at our SMB Summer Hot Spot this week.

BORACAY
April 27 and 28
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Club Summer Place Beach Front
Featuring Put3ska, Brownman Revival, Indio Eye, Spy, Bo Razon, Tambuli Jam and DJ Elmer Dado

SIARGAO
May 11
"SMB Bikini Open" Kabuntud Beach Front
May 12
"SMB Reggae and Rock" Kabuntud Beach Front
Featuring The Dawn, Sandwich, Spy and Brownbeat All-Stars

DUMAGUETE
May 1 to 5
"Santacruzan" Rizal Blvd., Dumaguete City
Featuring Brownman Revival and the hottest bands and DJs from Cebu on May 5
May 11
"Bikini Open 2001" Sta. Monica Beach Resort

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Per DTI NCR Permit no. 0375 Series of 2001

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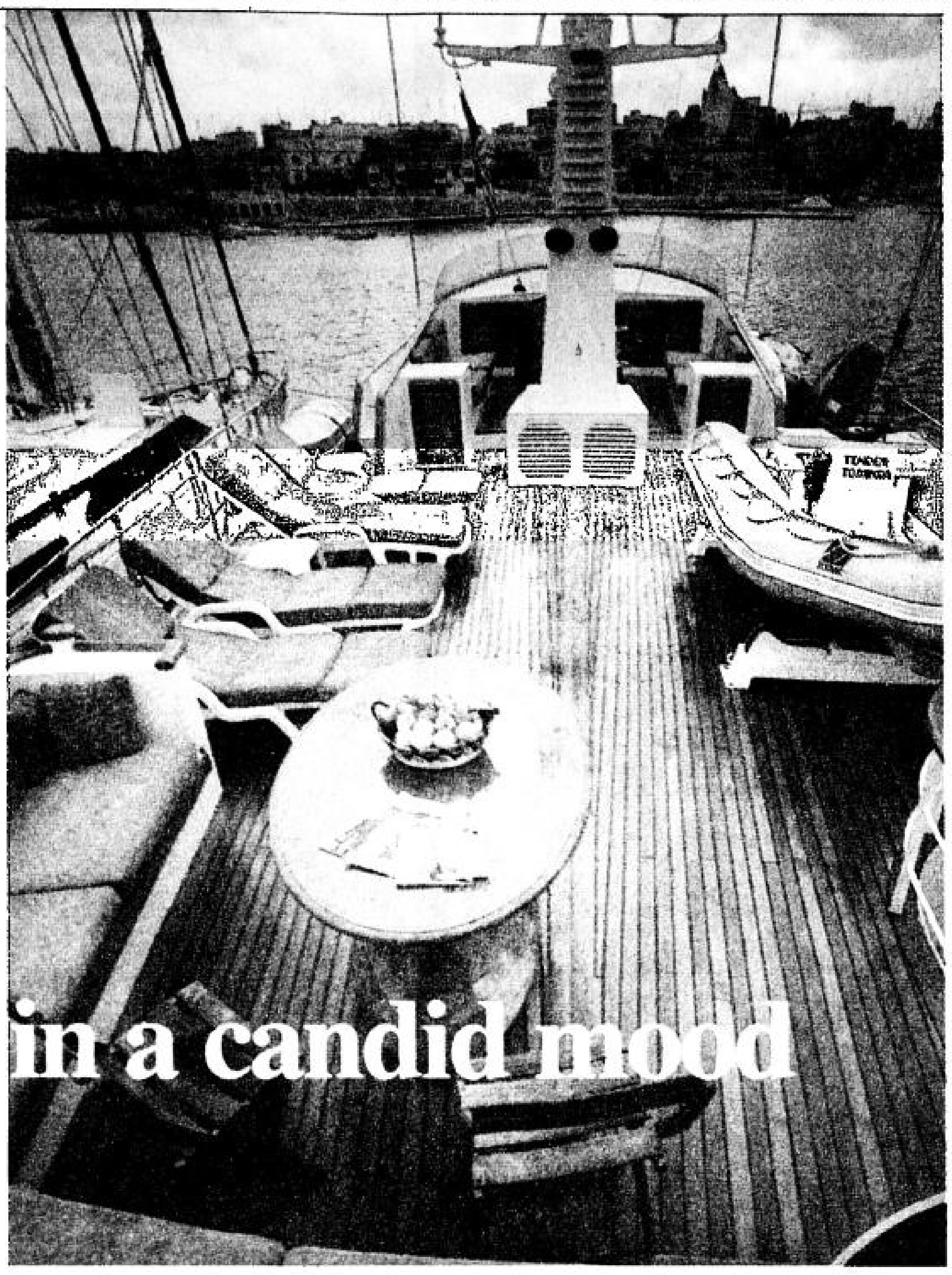
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

MUCH of the furniture in this room is late 18th century. Of particular note are the console table by Thomas Chippendale and the pair of Queen Anne walnut footstools in front of the fire.



M.Y. Minda is a 90-ft custom-built cruiser created for sheer pleasure, relaxation and luxury.

Catching Minda Feliciano in a candid mood

BY DONNIE C. RAMIREZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

MINDA Feliciano never fails to stir excitement every time she comes to Manila. The Filipina jet-setter, who hobnobs with the likes of Ivana Trump, Joan Collins and French actor Jean-Paul Belmondo, is in town for her annual visit to the home country. She is here to look at the progress of the renovation work being done on her ancestral home in Angeles City, Pampanga, and to touch base with her Manila friends.

A bonafide royalty, Lady Minda is the wife of Lord Norman Lonsdale of Armaghdale, a direct descendant of the Duke of Wellington and a great-great grandson of Lord Raglan, commander in chief of the Crimea. They have been married for 16 years.

"I always look forward to coming home to the Philippines," she tells me when I managed to get her away from the other guests at the private dinner party last Monday organized by her sister-in-law, Becky Garcia, widow of Minda's younger brother Ramon. The party was held at Ernest Escaler's fabulous penthouse unit at the Rizal Tower in Rockwell Center.

Met her prince

Dressed in a lace and chiffon hostess gown by noted Italian designer Cavalli, Minda exuded pure chic as she candidly talked about her beloved Lord Norman.

"I'm so lucky to have him. After all the men I've known, I finally met my prince," she gushes. "He's a wonderful and compassionate man who cares not only for me but for my family. He is deeply concerned about my ailing sister Alegria who has Parkinson's disease."

To all the women out there, her advice is to be patient. "Your prince will also come, if you wish hard enough," she adds with a naughty wink.

Lord Norman had visited the Philippines two times, the last one in 1992. "He would have come with me this time, except that he has pressing business commitments in London," Minda says. "Besides, he is still jet-lagging." Before coming to the Philippines, Minda and Norman went on a skiing holiday in Switzerland. That explained the lovely tan she is sporting.

MINDA Feliciano

"Norman is crazy about skiing, that's why I had to learn to ski," she discloses. "He is also into tennis and golf. In fact he is a member of Wimbledon."

Incidentally, Minda calls her husband "Naughtier." Asked about the unusual pet name, she explains. "That's because she calls me Naughty!"

Life in the UK

Minda and Norman live in central London, but maintain a fabulous country house one hour away from the city. The estate, called Kingstone Lisle Park and Gardens, is a magnificent structure built in 1677 considerably altered between 1810 and 1820 when two wings were added on the north side. The alterations in the main hall are said to be inspired by Sir John Soane whose interiors are unique in English architecture.

It is in the chapel of the estate where Norman and Minda were married. The tent reception was held in the sprawling gardens planted with very old elm, yew and beech trees. Roses, lilacs, acers and cercidiphyllums provide wonderful autumn colors. The rose garden is a smaller replica of Queen Mary's garden in Regent's Park.

ROBERTO Belletti, French embassy consul Pierre Coquillat, Becky Garcia, Augusto Vinciguerra, Andrea Narucci

TAMMIE Wilson, Hilda and Joey Antonio, Mayen Carmona

RIC Singson, Celia Cuasay, Charlie Horne

Summers find Norman and Minda in her yacht which is named after her. The M.Y. Minda is a 90-footer luxury cruiser built in Holland and equipped with two powerful 470-horsepower Detroit diesel engines and state-of-the-art navigation system. It boasts of a teak-walled saloon, a deluxe master stateroom with a large circular wardrobe and end-suite bathroom with bidet, several well-appointed guest cabins.

It is on the yacht where Minda entertains her jet-setting friends, including singer Andy Williams and actor Ryan O'Neal, and Tony Bennet who, incidentally, was once romantically linked with Minda. Docked in Malta, the M.Y. Minda sails to Sicily, Stromboli, Amalpi, Capri and as far as Greece and Turkey.

Cruising

A taste of Minda's legendary on-board parties was the main course at the dinner last Monday. A splendid menu was prepared by Manolo Valdez, the yacht's chef de cuisine who Minda brought with her to Manila, along with her personal butlers. Valdez was formerly with the Pacific Star Club in Makati and was recommended by Becky. He has been with Minda for three years now.

For starters, Chef Valdez prepared exotic spring rolls called *chayo* wrapped in fresh lettuce and spiced with mint and fish sauce. The main course was a medley of spaghetti *melanzane*, *risotto porcini* perfectly cooked al dente, fresh prawns in tomato and crispy Szechuan beef tips. For a touch of local color, Chef Valdez threw in native *okoy*. The to-die-for fare was capped by diet crème caramel and Baked Alaska.

Entertainment was provided by Nonoy Lopez's one-man band and national Latin dancesport champions Belinda Adora and Michael Mendoza who performed the rumba and jive. Contributing impromptu numbers were pianist Cris Medina and Leo Valdez who is all set to reprise The Engineer's role in the "Miss Saigon" production in Hong Kong and Singapore this summer.

Minda hardly touched the food at her party. But that is not the reason for her fabulous figure. "I keep in shape by regular gym work. I also paint to relax my mind. And most of all, I keep myself busy." Yes, boredom isn't a part of Lady Minda Feliciano Lonsdale's exciting and colorful lifestyle.

MARGIE Aranz, Robert Lilja

GILBERT Perez, Jayne Yu, Rosanna Peña, Elena Bouffard de Arias, Henri Muzzarelli and Cris Medina (standing)

STEVE Jordan and Johnny Litton

PHILIPPE Seyer, Francesca Sison and Ernie Liwanag

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Metro launches magazine for Filipino brides

METRO Magazine will launch a magazine for Filipino brides on May 2 at the Makati Shangri-La. The launch is a fashion show featuring the wedding gowns of the top 11 fashion designers in the country.

For the first time in years, these designers are joined in one fashion show. They are Pepito Albert, Auggie Cordero, Rhett Eala, Nolie Hans, Ben Farrales, Rajo Laurel, Loretto, Pitoy Moreno, Joe Salazar, Michele Sison, Inno Sotto.

The magazine is Metro Veil. The launch caps the three-day bridal fair, "Bridal Fete," held by Makati Shangri-La.

It is presented by ABS-CBN Publishing, which publishes Metro magazine, Makati Shangri-La and the Brides Maids and Co., which went into a venture with ABS-CBN Publishing to produce this bridal magazine.

The magazine is meant to be the bridal bible of the Filipino bride, with photo spreads of wedding gowns, floral arrangements, cakes, fashion accessories for the bride and groom, honeymoon destinations. It also has useful stories for the aisle-bound couple—from how to budget to how to choose their honeymoon site. And most important, it has the most extensive listing of wedding suppliers in the country.

Cocktails will precede the show to be directed by Ariel Lozada.

Give mom a logo

KALEO scarf can double as a fashion accessory or an accent for the home.

LOUIS Vuitton, the French fashion brand for fine leathercraft, offers gift suggestions for Mother's Day. The Spontini is a compact beauty case. It's just right for keeping all those beauty necessities, no matter where the day's journey takes her.

Discreet on the outside, the Spontini can be carried just like a city purse, clutch or shoulder bag with removable straps. Its unique construction is revealed inside, as every makeup necessity has its own place. There's a pocket for a little mirror or pencil sharpener, special cowhide leather loops for blush brushers and lipsticks. Mom won't have to dig around for anything she needs. And your mom will love the ultra-wide opening and washable lining, which makes the Spontini easy to use every day.

Moms who love to look really feminine will love the ethnic touch of the Kaleo scarf. This wrap is a blend of linen, a light and noble fabric, and Cupro, a slightly glossy organic material.

The design is enhanced even more by a discreet blend of Damier and Monogram flowers. The jacquard weave and the motifs create a tone-on-tone pairing of orange and beige hues.

Louis Vuitton is located at G/F 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Visit www.vuitton.com.

Early morning appointment with my angel

(From page G1)

But first, can you see it, I asked. Yes, he said and pointed to my left. Is he a guy?

ture," Nonoy said.

How did he know he wasn't just imagining it, I said. "Not even your imagination could make you feel that happy or that good," he said.

The "angel" said he showed himself because "God asked me to," he even gave Nonoy his name (Gidoniel, if I remember Nonoy right). Nonoy told his wife and two kids about it, his wife then told her friends and friends' friends that Nonoy could talk to angels, and before he knew it, friends were dropping by his house for some angel talk.

Nonoy talked about his extraordinary activity so ordinarily, no matter that I was listening to him in disbelief, or in suspended belief. He was so casual and cheerful about it that he didn't seem to care if he was coming across at all.

So what did all this do to him, I asked. It put him in touch with what's inside him, he said. His angel made him unravel his difficult childhood when he had problems with his stepmother. Angels remind you to go back to yourself, he said, pointing again to his chest. People have forgotten to use their intuition, he added.

So to go back to me, what do you like to ask, he looked at me, smiling.

Uh, but first, can you see my angel, I asked. Yes, he said and with his lips pointed to my left. Is he a guy, I said. "Actually angels are genderless. It's like an energy field from which you make out a form," he said.

So what do you make out, I pressed. It's a man, he said.

Does he have a name, I pressed some more. Yes, then he gave me a name, an early-biblical-sounding name, but he said that's not really important because it'll just be a translation into our physical speech. He could have a point, for in fact, I couldn't remember now the name he gave. It was pointless to ask for surnames (it wouldn't be one of the 13-0, I'm sure, no matter that Miriam is a biblical name).

Missing the bigger picture

So again, what do you want to ask him, he repeated. Uh, the bottom line, I thought. Am I making the right decisions in our publishing business? Nonoy looked beyond my left shoulder and smiled, "Are you happy?"

I took that question to be the answer, so I saw no point in going into the financial statements.

Next, am I doing right with the kids? Again, he stared at my side, then began a longish explanation. "You tend to lose touch," he said, as if talking only to himself. "Your youngest could be reaching out to you. Trying to tell you something you don't see, yet he's not saying."

How could he know that 15-year-olds are a big challenge, that they're at a stage when their most articulate answer to a mom's questions is always the esoteric "Okay *lang*"? Focus on him some more, Nonoy said without asking how many kids I have or how old they are. I am, I am.

Next, am I doing right at this stage of my life, I might as well have it out with my angel. "You think you have no major issues, but you have. First, you must focus your time well. You could be wasting it on the externals, on the external career.

Second are your relationships. You have ruffled some feathers. Your presence has caused pain to others, although you don't focus on that. But you must resolve something pressing. Third, you miss the bigger picture of why you are here in this world since your focus is solely on your external career." Then he went on about inner matters.

Angels, he said, are not your guard. They don't work the way your rational mind works. They're not here to give you answers, or to stop you. They're your guide in your soul evolution (my words, not his). Your soul is completing some sort of a movie, you're acting in it, and your angel is just watching you. Angels work on this, he said pointing to his head, and on this, pointing to his heart, and it's up to you to listen.

So if you can see my angel, I asked, how about my devil? He said there's really no such thing. It's when your mind and heart go haywire that you get into devil trouble. My words, not his. But that's what I made out of what he said. Come to think of it, I don't really remember his exact words, I simply deduced from them, what I felt he—and that presence by my side, if you will—were telling me. I guess I wasn't listening with my mind.

Lightness of being

He asked if I have more specific questions. None really, I said. I guess he must be used to being asked specifics, like stocks, bosses and boyfriends, in that order—the stuff you go to fortunetellers for. But I don't go to fortunetellers, I don't even read horoscopes (I edit and reword them a bit though). The farthest I go into my future is heeding **Marge E.** about Mercury in retrograde. Nonoy is no fortuneteller. He's an angel counselor who talks to you about angels and how to communicate with them. (By the way, he's holding an angel workshop on May 18 at Chacra.) I just really got curious about angel counseling.

At the onset of the millennium, angels became a big thing here and abroad. We grew up believing in guardian angels, but somehow lost it somewhere along the way.

I emerged from that brief session feeling that lightness of being. I left thinking that whatever you do, do it with a clear mind and a clear heart, but better still, a clean mind and a clean heart. That's tough on a daily basis.

I told friends about my Saturday appointment. Some were intrigued, others dismissed it. But I like what a businessman friend, of all people, said, "It could be true or not, but so what? People want to believe in something good, for a change."

Speaking of blessings, two good friends just had theirs the past weeks. **Ernie** and **Jeena Lopez** had their firstborn, **Caleb Nathaniel** (nicknamed Blade), last April 13 in San Francisco. **Dondi** and **Kara Alikpala** had their baby daughter last April 19 at Makati Medical Center. They're naming their firstborn **Mariana Eugenie**.

Kara was a proactive mother-to-be, undergoing the Bradley Method of Natural Childbirth under childbirth educator **Chiqui Brosas-Hahn**—an increasingly popular method among young Filipino mothers that teaches you not only breathing exercises but also lifestyle patterns that will help you give birth the most natural way, heeding your instinct, with active coaching from your husband. A few mothers who took the course, in fact, were progressive and bold enough to give birth in their homes. Kara did hers in the hospital, but without anesthesia throughout labor. It's just that little Ariana (her nickname) took so long in coming that the doctors had to resort to caesarean operation. She came out 2:30 a.m.

Meanwhile the book group of **Jim Paredes** is bringing over **Neale Donald Walsch**, the author of the famous book "Conversations with God," in June.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net.

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A mom asks where to bring her drug addict-son

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

May I turn to you for advice on where to bring my son who, I have just discovered, is a drug addict? He confessed to me it started only last December when his former *barkadas* in high school got together for a reunion. He told me the money he used was his daily lunch allowance.

Now that it is vacation time, we do not give him regular daily money, which is why he had to confess to me. In fact, he convinced me he wants to stop. Before classes ended, he would bring *pan de sal* to school, which I realize now was what he ate for lunch. There were times he would ask for money to buy a book or something else, which I never got to see. Now I know.

Please help. I decided to write to you because your column is called Live and Let Live. Kindly help my son live a better life. God bless.

WORRIED MOTHER

You are not alone. You will be interested to know that three other writers have asked the same question as to where to go. I called the office of Sr. Pilar Verzosa, RGS, national coordinator of Pro-Life Philippines, and was given the names of five centers.

Home Care, B7 Oliveros St., Mandaluyong City, tel. 746-6559; New Beginnings Foundation, President's Avenue corner Villaba, BF Homes, Parañaque, tel. 809-4578; Life Change Recovery Center—84 Ma. Clara St., Sta. Mesa Heights, QC, tel. 415-6529, or see Dr. Randy Misael Dellosa's counseling clinic at 2/F Back to the Bible Building, 135 West Ave., QC, tel. 411-9596. At his clinic, a donation of P800, or any amount, is welcome.

However, there is a nonstock, nongovernment organization involved in rehabilitation of substance dependents and other attitude problems, which many will be interested in: SELF (Self Enhancement for Life Foundation). It was founded in 1992 by a recovered drug dependent, who now serves as its executive director. SELF is a member of the Asian Federation of Therapeutic Communities, as well as of Philcadsa (Philippine Council Against Drugs and Substance Abuse). It is also accredited by the Dangerous Drugs Board.

Statistics have shown that 85 percent of SELF graduates remain successful in their recovery. Fees are charged, of course, but their services are multifaceted: residential treatment, comprehensive family program, after-care therapy groups, outdoor survival workshops, musical training, writing skills development, psychotherapy and individual counseling, Christian meditation groups, spiritual development seminars, as well as sports and recreation activities.

SELF has outreach programs such as conducting seminars on team building as well as drug awareness and preventive education.

To quote from their brochure: "SELF recognizes that substance abuse, along with other attitude disorders, arises from multiple causes—systematic interaction of biological, economic, psychological and sociocultural factors. Thus, the treatment modality used by SELF employs a holistic approach anchored on the philosophy of self-help. They provide a caring environment where individuals, participating in group processes, are aided to discover and establish their self-worth, inherent talents and potentials—leading them toward a successful reintegration into their families as productive members of society."

The address of SELF Inc. is 118 J. Elizalde St., BF Homes, Parañaque, tel. 807-4094, telefax 809-3491.

Another center, this one in coordination with the Office of the Mayor, is Bahay Bagong Buhay, a beautiful building next to the gate of the North Cemetery Compound near the Chinese General Hospital on Blumentritt. This rehabilitation center is under the Manila Health Department. They give free services, and hold everything confidential. Women with problems are referred to Ospital ng Maynila. For more information, Pastor Richard Contreras can be contacted at (0917) 898-1468 or through 809-4578.

There are more centers here in Metro Manila. May I suggest you also ask your parish priest? He may know of one near you.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

THE CANDIDATES of the Miss Philippines beauty pageant at their official residence, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. During the official launch last week, GM for Operations Michael Herrmann signed a memorandum of agreement with Ramon Monzon, president of Carousel Productions, producer of the Miss Philippines Beauty, designating Hotel Inter-Continental Manila as the official residence. The pageant will be aired live from the UP Theater on April 28, 9 p.m., on Channel 9.

Value weekday treats from Alabang Town Center

GOINGS-ON

ALABANG Town Center offers Value Weekday Treats until July 12. Shop in any three Alabang Town Center stores and collect at least P4,000, P5,000 or P6,000 worth of receipts and get a free gift. Present receipts at any of the redemption booths between Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Exchange receipts worth P4,000 for an umbrella, P5,000 for a knapsack with cell phone holder and P6,000 for a pillow mat. Accumulated purchases must fall between Mondays to Thursdays and within eight consecutive weekdays of the promo period. Promo booths are located near the Activity Center and Alabang Mall (between Nunn Bush and Service Town Center). At the South Supermarket, the Price Saver's Promo is ongoing where shoppers can get 5-20 percent off on selected meat, fish and other fresh goodies.

RETREAT. The Intensive Journal is conducting a six-day retreat from May 7-12 at 8 a.m., and from 2-5:30 p.m. at Maryknoll Ecological Sanctuary, Campo Sioco, Baguio City. Sr. Dolores M. Mitch, M.M., will facilitate the retreat. Call 442-4602.

BOOK LAUNCH. Former Press Secretary and MTRCB chair Jess Sison draws on his experiences as a close-in reporter of the Malacañang Press Office during the brief three-year presidency of Ramon Magsaysay in his book, "My Guy Magsaysay," which will be launched today at the Dusit Hotel Nikko. The book seeks to provide another glimpse into the person of the man Filipinos fondly refer to as "The Guy."

In his book, Sison presents, in simple and straightforward language, interesting and perceptive anecdotes about the president—from his occasional stand-offs with traditional politicians regarding his many reforms and innovations to his dialogues with the common people concerning their needs and hopes. A portion of the book is reserved for former Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella, who also shared his recollections of President Magsaysay.

TRADE SHOW. The fifth Edition Tele-Communication, Auto-Cycle Accessories, Sports and Leisure, Travel and Corporate Giveaway Trade Show is set on May 11 to June 3 at the Centermall, Greenhills Shopping Center. Call 820-3862, 826-8162/6732 and 829-3165.

FOOD SEMINAR. ProActiveCenter for Training will be holding a workshop/seminar on restaurant management on May 7-11, 1-5 p.m., at Triple V Express, 2/L Bridgeway, SM Megamall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. Call 823-4947.

BALLET PERFORMANCES. Intramuros Evenings Performing Arts Series features "Ballet Philippines Summer Moves" tomorrow, 6:30 p.m., at the Puerta Real Gardens. Under the artistic direction of Denisa Reyes, the country's premiere dance company will feature classical and contemporary dance masterpieces, including excerpts from world-renowned ballets "Nutcracker Suite" and "Cinderella," as well as original Filipino choreographies "Swimming the Pasig," "Magkaugnay," "Aku" and "Flippers." Call 527-3138/2961.

HOMECOMING. The Alumni Association of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas will hold its 4th General Alumni Homecoming on May 5, 3 p.m., at the Museum Plaza of the DLSU-D campus. Registration is free. Call 844-7832, (046) 416 4554-56 local 3036.

WORKSHOP. Boston–based yoga teacher Ciay Misa is conducting a workshop on self-healing yoga today at the Center for Health and Creative Arts, 144 B. Gonzales, Loyola Heights, QC, from 10 a.m.-2p.m. Call Chacra at 434-5381 or 426-5368.

MEDIA DAY. Fashion Freedom Inc through its children line Bylos, supports Kanlungan sa Er-Ma's Summer Art Workshop for underprivileged children, which will run until May 1. A press conference is set today, 1:30 p.m., at the Kanlungan sa Er-Ma residence, 1625-A F. Agoncillo St. Malate, Manila. Call 525-8749.

EXHIBIT. The 26th anniversary art exhibit dubbed "Lakbay Bulacan" celebrates Bulacan Week at Hiyas ng Bulacan Cultural Center, Malolos, Bulacan on May 2, 10 a.m. The event is sponsored by the provincial government of Bulacan headed by Gov. Josie dela Cruz.

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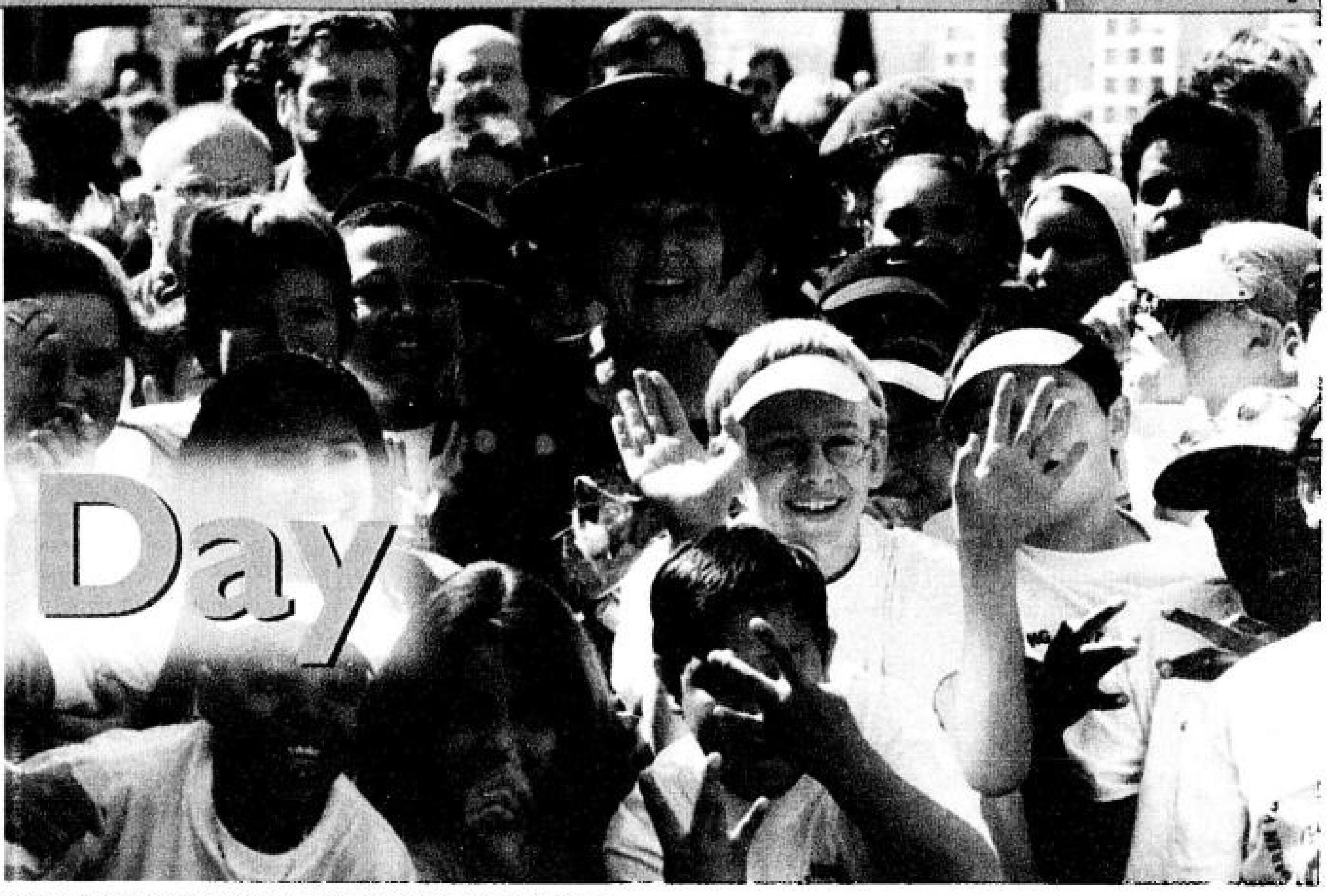
THE NETHERLANDS
National Day

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH
LITA PASCUAL, Account Manager

Dutch hit the streets on Queen's Day


QUEEN BEATRIX of the Netherlands with schoolchildren

STREETS packed with families, foodstalls lined up, children selling second-hand goods, people wearing orange clothes and live entertainment both organised and spontaneous everywhere. Queen's Day is no ordinary day. The 30th of April is a national holiday and the date when the Dutch people celebrate the birthday of the monarch, Queen Beatrix. The Queen, Prince Claus and other members of the royal family visit the festivities in one or two different places each year. The royal visits are always broadcast live on television.

THE GOLDEN coach of the Queen in The Hague

During the reigns of Queen Wilhelmina and Queen Juliana, it was the custom to celebrate Koninginnedag on the Queen's birthday - Aug. 31 and April 30 respectively. However on the day of her investiture, April 30, 1980, Queen Beatrix stated that she wished to continue celebrating it on April 30, as a mark of respect for her mother, Queen Juliana. Her own birthday in January is in the middle of winter and therefore not very suitable for outdoor events. She did change the way in which it is celebrated, by attending the festivities in the country.

In the last year the Dutch monarchy received a lot of attention through the marriages of two princes. On top of that the Queen announced in a nationwide broadcasting the engagement of her son, Crown prince Willem-Alexander and his fiancée Maxima Zorreguieta. She decribed her prospective daughter-in-law as an intelligent, modern and courageous woman.

The wedding will be at the beginning of next year, said Prime Minister Wim Kok. The wedding plans needed the approval of parliament since Maxima will become queen if her husband-to-be accedes to the throne. Given the reaction of the Dutch people to her first public appearance, she has won their hearts

As the nation weighs up what it expects from its monarch in the new millennium, some people are already considering the implications of a possible change on the throne. After three generations of queens with the first Queen's Day taking place on August 31, 1891, there will be a King. So the day will have to be renamed. Some people are asking if it should remain a celebration of the monarch's official birthday, or whether it would be better to turn it into a national day without royal connotations. It could then be called 'Oranjedag' (Orange Day).

However, it's not likely that we'll see the end of this special day in the Dutch calendar. The Dutch like to celebrate their national identity. April 30th is a perfect time to celebrate the end of winter, the arrival of spring and the start of what will hopefully be a long season of bright, sunny weather. If Queen's Day didn't exist, something like it would have to be invented. This most Dutch of days is likely to be with us for a long time to come.

PRINCE WILLEM Alexander presents his fiancée Maxima to the public.

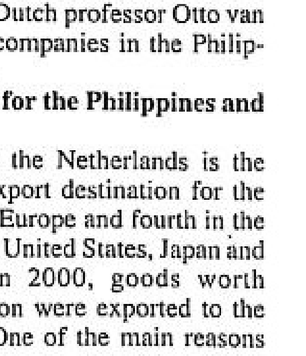
Facts about the Netherlands

Area:
Total: 41.532 sq km
Land: 33,889 sq km
Water: 7,643 sq km
Lowest point: Prins Alexanderpolder – 7 m
Highest point: Vaalserberg 321 m
Population: 16 million
Birth rate: 11.36 births/1000 pop.
Net migration rate: 1.99 migrant(s)/1000 pop.
Life expentancy at birth:
Total population: 78.2 years
Male 75.3 years
Female 81.2 years
Head of State: Queen Beatrix
Head of Government: Prime Minister Wim Kok
National Language: Dutch
System of Government: Constitutional Monarchy
Capital: Amsterdam
Seat of Government: The Hague
Climate: Temperate climate

JE MAIN TIENDRAI

Promoting business, culture and the environment

The Netherlands Ambassador, Theo Arnold, shares his views on the Philippines - Netherlands relations



AMBASSADOR Arnold can rightfully be called an Asean expert, having spent much of his career in the region. He was director of the Asia department of the Foreign Ministry in The Hague and was posted in Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur before coming to the Philippines. In the following interview, Ambassador Arnold turns to different aspects of the Philippines-Netherlands relations.

Q: In one word, how are relations between your country and the Philippines?

A: Excellent. Relations between the Netherlands and the Philippines are longstanding. Last year we commemorated that 400 years ago the first Dutch set foot on Filipino soil. This year the embassy will publish a book on the history of our economic relations. The book will show the development in trade from the old galleon trade with its traditional products, such as copra, to the contemporary high-tech products and services. For the publication of the book, which is written by Dutch professor Otto van den Muijzenberg, we received sponsoring from two Dutch companies in the Philippines, Makro (wholesale) and ING (banking and insurance).

How important is the Netherlands as a trading partner for the Philippines and vice versa?

I would say very important. Few Filipinos realize that the Netherlands is the number one export destination for the Philippines in Europe and fourth in the world after the United States, Japan and Singapore! In 2000, goods worth $2,982.5 million were exported to the Netherlands. One of the main reasons for this is the gateway function of my country. With Schiphol Airport and the Port of Rotterdam, my country is able to perform an important distribution function for the European hinterland.

What do you mean with distribution function?

The mainport functions of Rotterdam port and Amsterdam Schiphol Airport are so successful because of very efficient distribution facilities that are behind them. The distribution function has changed over the years. Especially since the completion of the European internal market, logistics and distribution have become vital elements in competitiveness. In order to cut costs, there has been a shift towards centralized logistical operations, where customization as well as support services can be provided. It is fascinating to see the way international containers are being handled in Rotterdam. Fully automated, contain-

PROMOTING/ H2

The Netherlands compared with the world

	% of world total
Total population	0.3%
Population 0 - 20	0.1%
Population 20 - 40	0.2%
Population 40 - 60	0.4%
Population 60 - 80	1%
Population 80+	0.4%
Gross domestic product	1.3%
World purchasing power	0.9%
Number of armed forces	0.3%
Electricity consumption (in millions of kWh)	0.7%
Carbon dioxide emission	0.4%
Number of refugees living in the Netherlands	1.2%
Number of cattle	0.4%
Number of pigs	1.6%

	% of world average
GDP per capita	239.8%
Public expenditure on education (as % of GNP)	6.3%
Televisions per 1000 inhabitants	114.6%
Government consumption as % of GDP	10.5%
Value of exports as % of GDP	140.3%
Value of imports as % of GDP	118.3%
Daily per capita supply of calories	17.7%
Daily per capital supply of fat (grams)	95.8%

Promoting business, culture and the environment

(From page H1)

ers are being loaded, handled and unloaded. You hardly see a person on the quay. Almost 7,000 foreign companies, large and small, have already established their European operations in the Netherlands. Serving the highly competitive European markets successfully requires both low distribution costs and high quality service. Companies noted that the Netherlands offer both qualities and made the Netherlands their home for their European operations.

You did not mention Philippine imports from the Netherlands....

The Philippine imports from the Netherlands were more than halved after the Asian crisis, however the figures are picking up again to a total of $324 million over the last year. You will notice a substantive trade imbalance which we of course would like to see equalized by Philippine imports from our country. Secretary of Trade, Mar Roxas II will visit the Netherlands with a trade delegation in May, which I am sure will give our bilateral trade an extra boost. The main categories of exports from the Netherlands to the Philippines were processed food products and food ingredients, semi-finished products, integrated circuits and micro-assembly.

> *Few Filipinos realize that the Netherlands is the number one export destination for the Philippines in Europe and fourth in the world. In 2000, goods worth $2,982.5 million were exported to the Netherlands*

Dutch investment in the Philippines grew and the number of Dutch companies with participation in Philippine counterparts increased. In which field are they active?

In the Philippines, Dutch companies are among the largest foreign investors. Actually, the Netherlands is the leading European investor, based on accumulated investments over the past 10 years. You might think about companies such as Philips (electronics), ING (bank and insurance), ABN-AMRO bank, Aegon (insurance), Exact (software), Makro (wholesale), Royal Dutch Shell, Liquigaz (oil and gas) and Unilever (food and toiletries). Also some big contractors and dredging companies are based here, like HAM and van Oordt. A well known pharmaceutical company is Organon.

Where do you see opportunities for Dutch companies?

Dutch companies are already active in a wide range of sectors. I see opportunities in sectors where the Dutch have built up quite some experience such as distribution and logistics, information technology, medical technology, food production, environmental engineering and big construction/infrastructure works. Environmental technology, in particular, is an area with much scope for exploration. Since the Netherlands is such a densely populated country, we had to tackle environmental problems at an early stage, leading to strict environmental regulations. Thus now, Dutch companies have a lot of expertise and are advanced in waste and water treatment. Further, I would like to see an increase in the number of Dutch tourists coming to the Philippines. An increase in the frequency of flights by Royal Dutch Airlines/KLM which now flies four days a week via Bangkok will make this possible. The KLM has come a long way, this year it will celebrate that it started flying to the Philippines 50 years ago.

Both the Netherlands and the Philippines are maritime countries. Is there some cooperation in this area?

Since 1996 there has been a sharp increase in the number of vessels under the flag of the Netherlands, as a result of a focused shipping policy of the Netherlands Government. For example, wage taxes for seafarers were reduced, a tonnage tax was introduced and manning rules were simplified. These measures have resulted in a 50-percent growth of the fleet by the year 2000.

At the same time the Dutch economy grew considerably and the unemployment rates decreased spectacularly. This led to less interest among youngsters to choose for a career at sea, and instead to apply for "landbased" jobs. As a result, there is a growing shortage of Dutch merchant marine officers. It is estimated that in 2005 there will be a shortfall of about 3000 officers on Dutch flag ships.

This means a great opportunity for Filipino merchant marine officers, who are now being recruited to work on Dutch vessels. Reasons for choosing the Philippines were the fact that already a great number of Philippine ratings were working on Dutch flag vessels, the satisfactory experience and existing relationships with Philippine training-institutes, the proficiency in English, and the availability of large numbers of officers and ratings.

So during the visit of the Netherlands Minister of Transport, Public Works and Water Management to the Philippines in March 2000, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed and a Joint-Committee on Maritime Affairs was established. In its first session in Manila (June 2000) an Undertaking on the mutual recognition of certificates was agreed upon. This Undertaking arranges for the procedures for the recognition of certificates, in line with the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Convention of the International Maritime Organisation. The member-states of the European Union are required to draft such an undertaking before they can go on recruiting people for their ships.

We hope that the Undertaking can be signed soon by both parties. The Undertaking, which has served the Philippines as a model for similar treaties with other seafaring countries, is important for both countries: the Netherlands will need it to man their ships with qualified people, for the Philippines it will offer a relevant source of employment.

The Royal Association of Dutch Shipowners is currently studying the possibilities to upgrade a maritime academy in the Philippines to requirements of Dutch shipowners, thereby providing good perspectives for enrolled students to get employed on Dutch vessels. The Netherlands Department of Transport is committed to provide financial support.

Given the Dutch expertise in port development and port management, is there a scope to cooperate in this area?

The Mainport of Rotterdam, together with several other Dutch companies like ABN-AMRO and Ballast Nedam (construction and dredging), has finished a pre-feasibility study on the development of a big transshipment hub in Masinloc, Zambales. One of the conclusions of the study was that Masinloc has some advantages over other ports in the Philippines, particularly the fact that it is much closer to the international shipment routes and can therefore reduce shiphandling costs considerably.

At this moment the Netherlands Government is considering to finance a more detailed feasibility study, which should lead to a bankable report as a basis for approaching investors for the implementation of the project. A final decision will depend on the cooperation that the Philippine Government can provide. The Dutch consortium, headed by Rotterdam Port would then be involved in the management of the port on a Build-Operate-Transfer basis.

The proposed port is part of an overall program managed by SmithGroup Gexis and further includes the development of industrial parks, a food terminal complex, a communication tower, and a toll road and rail line connecting central Zambales to the North Luxzon Expresway.

Apart from the economic ties between the Netherlands and the Philippines, what other fields of cooperation are there or would you like to enhance?

Apart from the focus on economic relations we would like to broaden and deepen our relations in other fields like cultural cooperation. Last year we organized a number of activities such as an exhibition on Dutch painter Mondrian in the Ayala Museum, the World Press Photo exhibition with Unilever in the Metropolitan Museum and concerts by piano virtuoso Martijn van den Hoek together with ING-Barings. This coming May 25 to 27 we're organizing a festival with Dutch animation films with Animagination, a group of independent Filipino animators. The festival will take place in the Shangrila Plaza cinema.

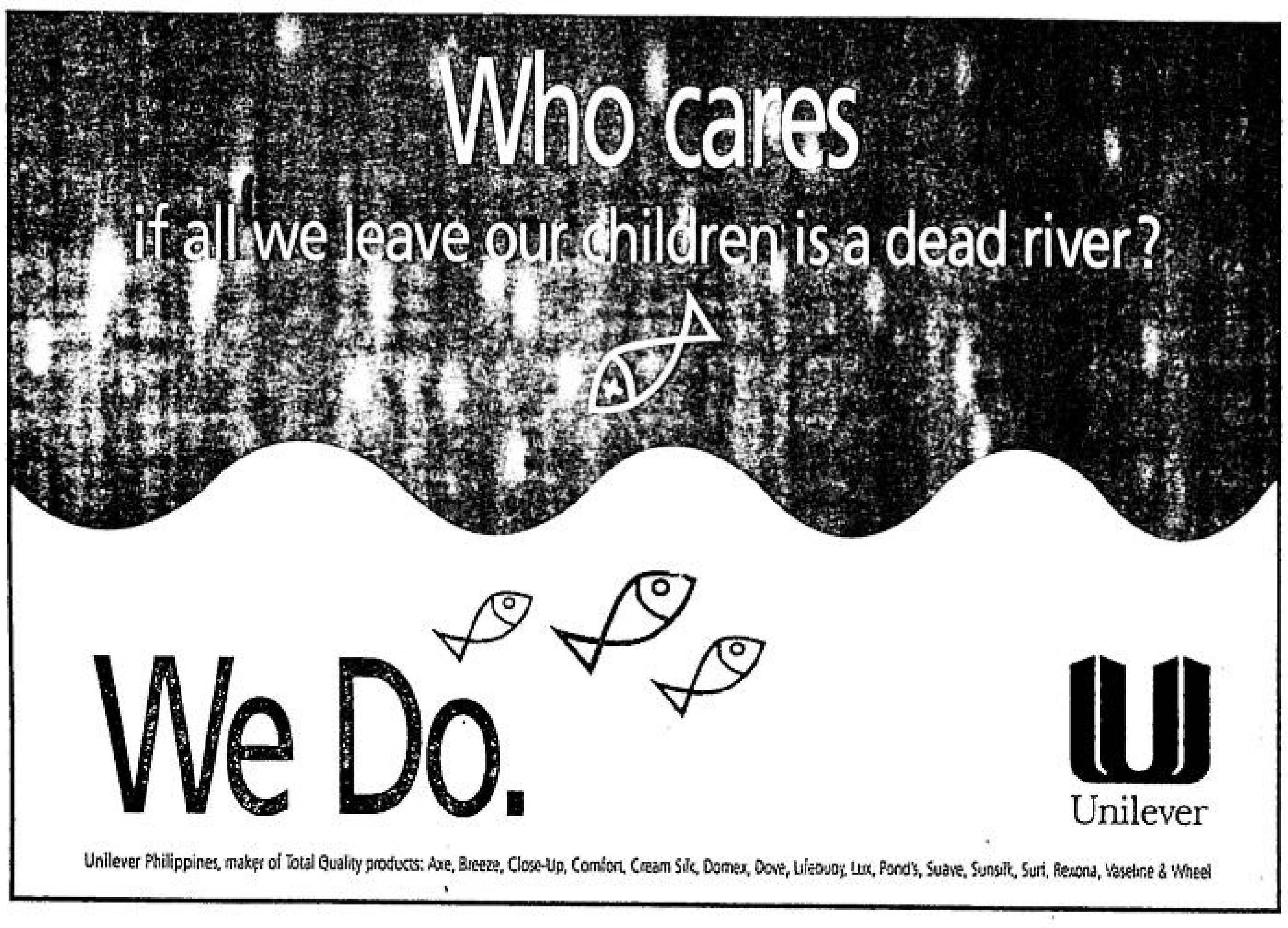
Last but not least I would like to mention that the Netherlands has been a major partner in development. Our bilateral assistance is focused on the environment sector. Projects on biodiversity conservation and climate change are eligible for Dutch funding. Another program is the Netherlands fellowship program, which has enabled over 2,000 Filipino professionals to take up post-graduate studies in the Netherlands.

Furthermore the Philippines benefits from Netherlands' voluntary contributions to international organizations from the United Nations-family and development funds from the European Union, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Participation from the Netherlands Development Bank (FMO), particularly aiming at strengthening the small and medium enterprise sector in the Philippines, amounted in 2000 to a total of about $23 million. The bilateral assistance in 2000 amounted to about $6.5 million and in addition substantial amounts to a total of more than $8 million were channeled through the Netherlands non-governmental organizations, like Cordaid, Icco and Novib. These combined efforts make the Netherlands an important bilateral donor to the Philippines with an approximate total of contributions of well over $40 million per year.

Is there anything else you would like to state on the occasion of Queen's Day?

Yes, definitely, I would like to see Holland, as the Netherlands is popularly known, become better known in the Philippines and I would like to encourage all Filipinos to visit our country. It is only through a better understanding of our societies, culture and aspirations that we all can contribute to a harmonious and better world. Hopefully this supplement on the Netherlands contributes to this endeavor.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Happy
Queen's
Day

from:
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Dutch dance masters dictate foreign floors

Last year Manila saw Dutch DJ Ferry Corsten, also known as System F. move the crowd with his irresistible beats. Dutch dance music is hot. The DJs are invited to the trendiest clubs, from New York to Tokyo, to Manila and you'll find the names of Dutch producers behind many an international club mix. And there's more to come...

The output of Dutch dance music is largely handled by many independent record labels, often run by the DJs and producers themselves.

These small companies usually find indies and majors across the globe eager to sign licensing deals for their hot products. Take Purple Eye Productions for instance, a label near Hilversum representing such artists as **Marco V.** and **System F.** In Germany they work with Sony and Universal, in the United Kingdom Warner handles their releases. The secret, according to Purple Eye's Joeri Lodders, is to be found in the typical flavor Dutch producers add to international genres.

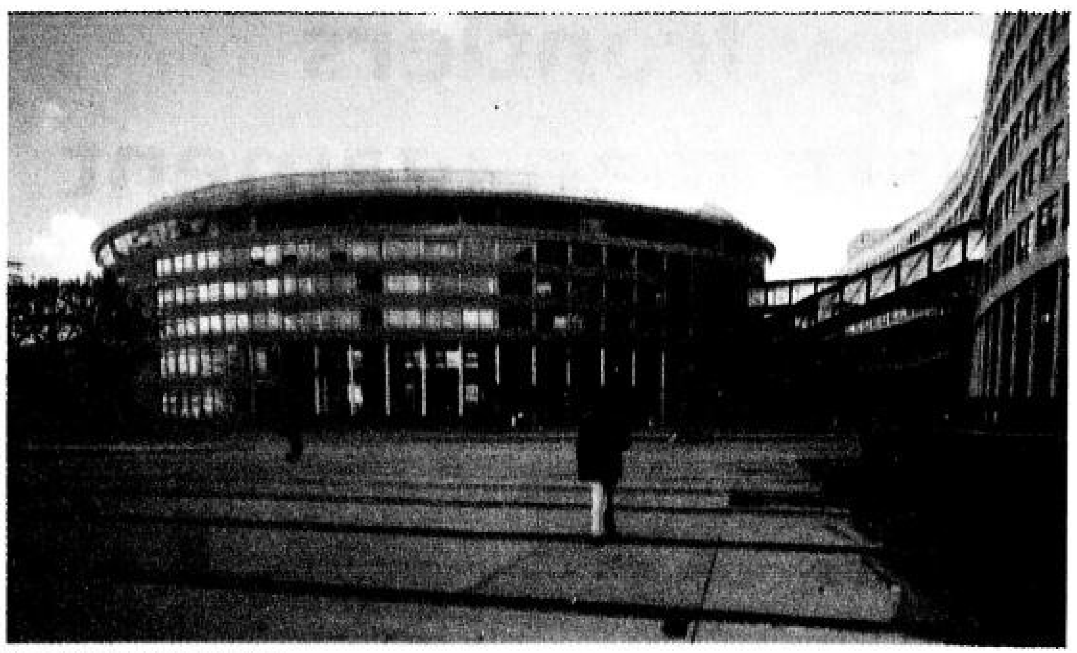
"As a small country, we take in new sounds from across Europe – like English hard house for instance – and pour our own trance sauce over it." With System F's "Out of The Blue" already doing 15,000 copies on vinyl, no one would argue with this recipe. "Funky house" is what's happening at the moment, claims Rhythm Import's A&R/licensing manager Luc Bakker.

The Amsterdam label, representing **Olav Basoski**, exports many titles, especially to England. "The different genres are each going their own ways," Bakker says about the current Dutch scene. "Progressive trance is still going strong, so is lounge. We specialize more in groovy house, which is based around song structures and groovy beats." Another big player is United Recordings, representing such legends as **Armin van Buuren** and **DJ Roog.** United's product manager March van der Haas recognizes a clear change of direction within the Dutch scene. "The Netherlands used to be known primarily for trance, which was at times rather shallow. Now, I hear more depth in the music."

United Recording promises new albums by **Chocolate Puma** and **Roos,** a female singer who worked with DJ Roog. Part two of the Singularity CD-series, produced by one of the progressive pioneers, **Lucien Foort**, has just been released. Rhythm Import promises the tenth installment in the Samplitude series (which usually sells between 10.000 and 15.000 copies), and Olav Basoski's **Opium Scumbagz**, which will be released through defected/Ministry of Sound in the UK. Another United promise is **Stahp & Lams**, two guys from Haarlem who are on their way to the producers premier league. Purple Eye announces new tracks by **Gouryella** (Ferry Corsten and Tiësto), **Bartez** (a "typical Dutch club record", but licensed to Universal Germany), and **Medicine Man.** Fans of Dutch dance music will be kept very busy.

In Amsterdam the sixth Amsterdam Dance Event will take place from Nov. 15 to 17. Widely regarded as Europe's prime platform for the dance and electronic music industry, the A.D.E. boasted well over 1100 professional participants last year.

www.amsterdam.dance.nl
or ade@conamus.nl



HAAGSE HOGESCHOOL

Get some Dutch training!

YEARLY the Dutch government is providing for about 70 fellowships and scholarships. Already over a thousand Filipinos have taken up this opportunity. The professional and postgraduate courses in The Netherlands make for an effective way of transferring technology. Moreover, international higher education is an important element in the contacts between the Filipinos and the Dutch.

Different fellowship and scholarship programs exist as part of the Dutch government's development cooperation.

- The Jan Tinbergen Scholarships Programme (TSP) provides scholarships to Filipinos to take part in a student exchange program with Dutch students to make cooperation at this level possible.
- The Netherlands Fellowships Programme (NFP) intends to help persons in mid-careers to deepen and broaden their specialized knowledge and professional skills.
- The University Fellowships Programme (UFP) is meant for post-graduate studies.

The scholarship is granted for the duration of the course. The fellowship covers international travel expenses, normal living expenses, fees and medical insurance.

For Filipinos seeking contacts in Europe and the European Union, The Netherlands can provide an excellent introduction.

Courses are offered in a wide range of topics. The Netherlands international courses last between three weeks and two years.

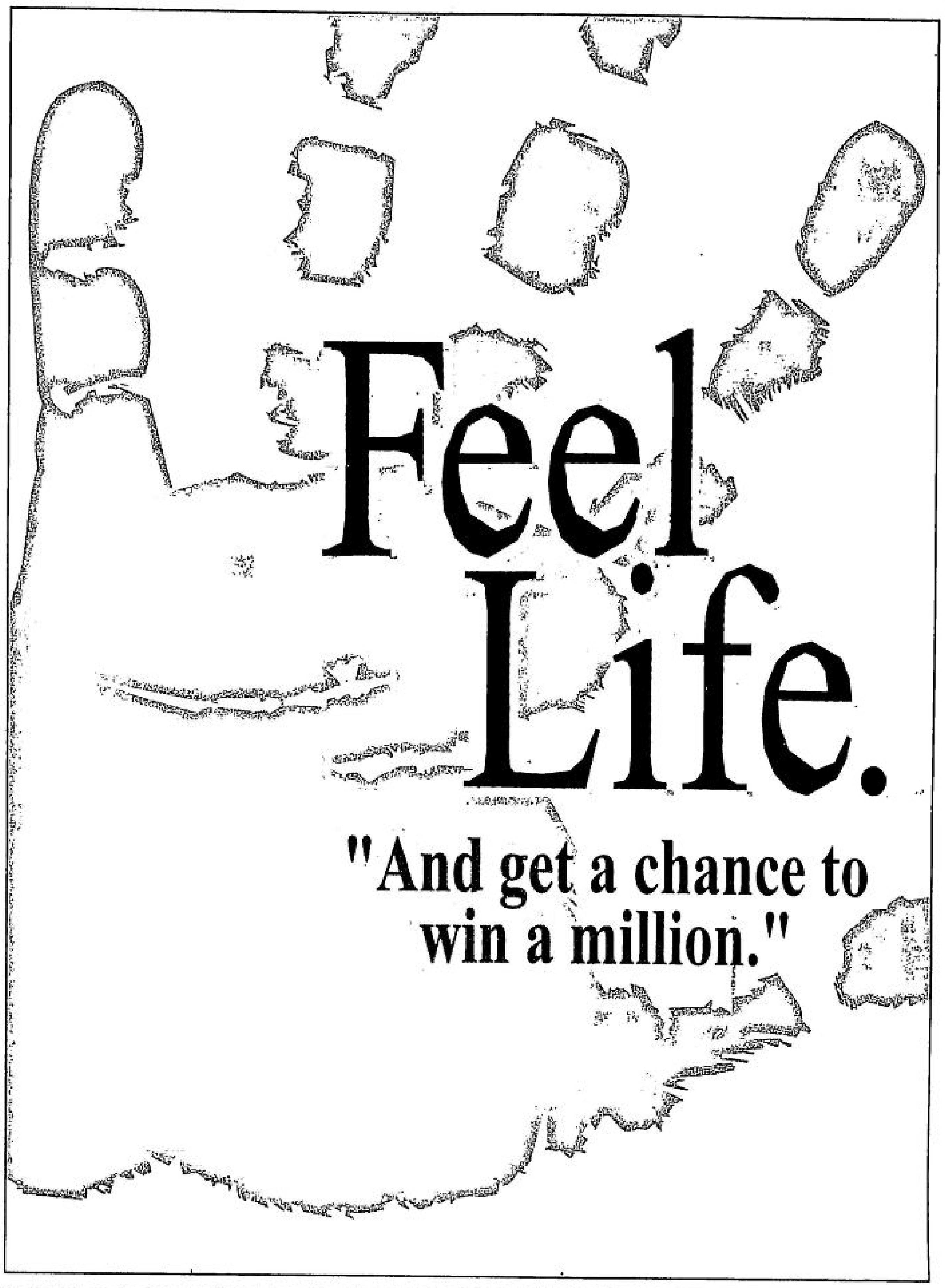
Most are intended for people with a bachelor's degree or its equivalent, and who have had several years of professional experience.

Despite their great variety, all are intensive, specialized and geared towards problem-solving.

The Nuffic catalogue lists almost 400 courses in 2000/2001 in these major fields of study:

- Science and technology
- Agricultural and related sciences
- Development-oriented studies
- Management and business
- Law and international relations

More details and application forms may be obtained from The Netherlands Embassy: P.O. Box 2448 MCPO, 1264 Makati, Metro Manila. nlgovman@pworld.net.ph; Nuffic also has a very informative website at www.nuffic.nl.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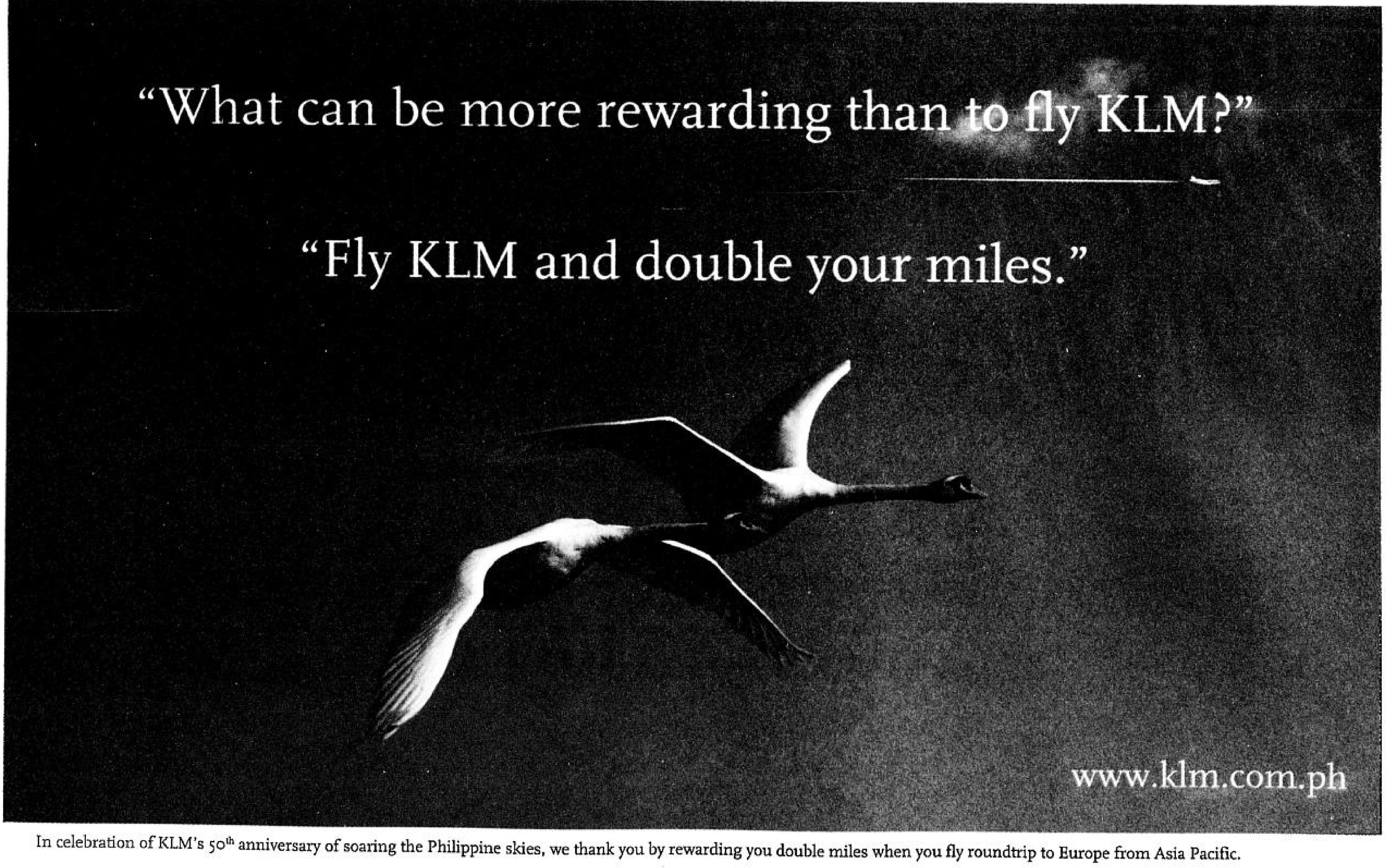
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Per DTI - NCR Permit # 0774, Series of 2001

The Netherlands exploring new frontiers in sustainable energy and waste management

THE NETHERLANDS economy is doing fine and this shows in the quantity of energy it uses and of the waste it produces. Both are keeping pace with the Dutch national income. Growing energy needs, more waste and more pollution, the problems are largely related.

The main energy resources that we use now are finite. At the same time the burning of fossil fuels creates air pollution because of high CO_2 emissions. Alternative energy resources can help in replacing the use of oil and gas and with limitation of pollution.

With the energy that fuels our increasing consumption, we create more waste. The indiscriminate disposal and burning of waste creates spatial and environmental problems. Recycling and alternative waste processing can not only help to limit the Payatas'es of different countries worldwide, but can even bring profit.

In the Netherlands continuing research is going on in these fields.

Energy, wind turbines and biomass energy

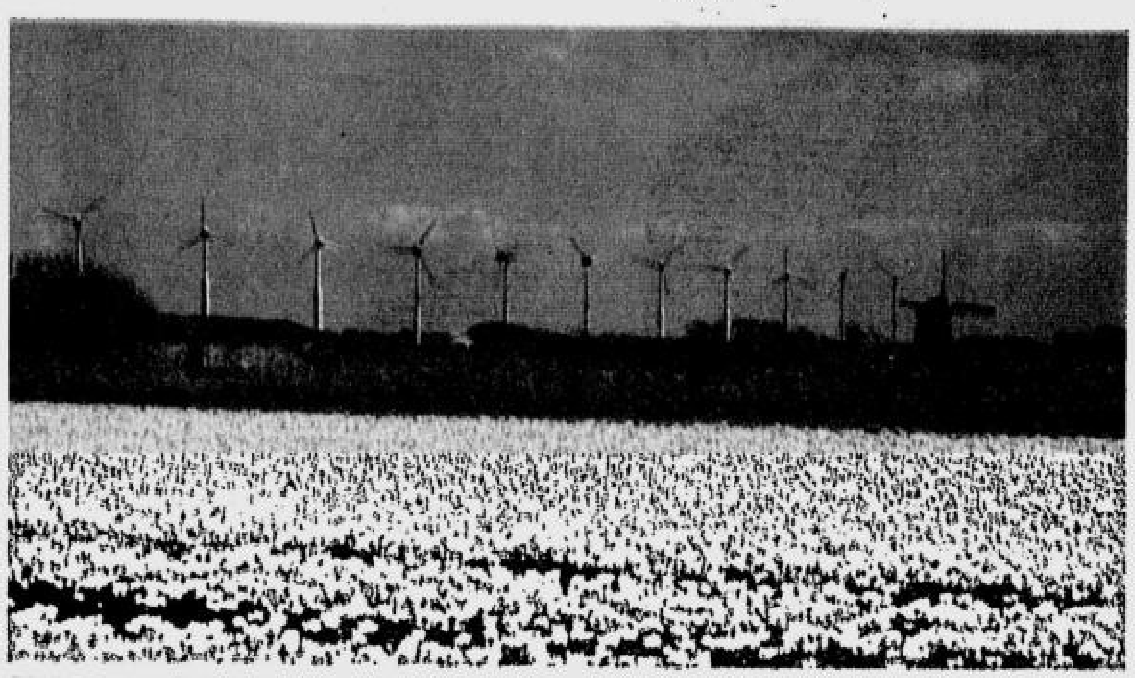
At the international climate conference held in The Hague last year, it was plain for all to see – the world wants sustainable energy but we're just not getting there. That's because we're still on the starting blocks of the transition from pure fossil energy to something more sustainable. The conference ended in a stalemate, the interests in economic growth prevented an agreement on limiting the damaging effects of our growth on the environment. The finite nature of fossil fuel stocks has still to be incorporated in the price; they are still relatively cheap. The alternative to fossil energy requires new technologies that to a significant extent still have to be developed. These new technologies are relatively expensive and have to compete with fossil fuel technologies that have many decades of development behind them and are already running at an optimum. The speed at which sustainable energy is being implemented is currently pretty much determined by the government subsidies. There is hardly any drive for sustainable energy in purely economic or commercial terms. The greenhouse gas issue calls for sustainable energy sources though.

Wind energy is one of those sources of sustainable energy. The long tradition of Dutch windmills used for milling grain is breaking new grounds with modern wind turbines that are being used to generate electricity. A small windmill can create enough energy for 2 to 3 households. Recent research of the Energy Research Centre Netherlands (ECN) in Petten has produced several ways of improving the performance of existing as well as new wind turbines. The turbines can be improved by applying strips to the wings that ensure the grip of the wind on the rotor blades, by keeping the dirt from settling down on the blades and by the positioning of the wind turbines when they are grouped together.

Another alternative source that can be used is biomass energy. Biomass is material of organic origin that, in contrast to fossil fuels is, of very recent origin. Biomass includes all kinds of waste wood and trees, either natural or industrial, biodegradable waste, agricultural refuse, sewage sludge or specially grown energy crops like willows, poplars and miscanthus. Energy from biomass does not cause any increase in the CO_2 content on the atmosphere because trees and plants absorb, in principle, just as much CO_2 from the atmosphere when they are growing as they release when they are converted into energy. Depending on the technique employed for conversion, biomass can be transformed into heat, electricity and gaseous as well as liquid fuels. The main thermal conversion techniques are incineration, gasification, pyrolysis and liquefaction. The research in the field is still very much in development, but the Netherlands have several strong points in the field of biomass. These are stoves with a high performance and a low emission, equipment to compress biomass material, equipment and technology for big biomass powerplants, and evaluation methods for social and environmental consequences. Thus biomass has a potential of becoming the main source of sustainable energy in the future.

Waste separation and solid waste management

Using biomass can also lend a hand to the problem of waste. The garbage-problem in metro-Manila in the beginning of this year showed the increasing need for proper solid waste management. But waste problems are universal. The annual harvest of waste materials in the Netherlands contains five hundred tonnes of glass, one million tonnes of plastic, 14 million tonnes of building and demolition waste, seven million tonnes of household waste, three million tonnes of packaging, three and a half million tonnes of paper and board and 300,000 old cars.



OLD and new wind energy siding up in a Dutch landscape

Solid waste management is needed to protect public health and the environment, but also to sustain development through resource recycling and energy production from waste. This approach requires a planned program for effective collection, proper handling and final disposal of waste.

Developed western countries have over a hundred years of experience with solid waste management. This has resulted in increased environmental awareness with the introduction of sustainable development based on waste minimisation, waste recycling and safe waste disposal.

Many less developed countries however, still have a long way to go with respect to solid waste management. Rapid urban population growth causes a great need for proper design and adequate operation of municipal services for water supply and sanitation. Solid waste management is often ignored or given a low priority – in spite of the great impact it has on the quality of the urban environment – largely due to its consumption of huge parts of the municipal budgets. This situation often leads to inefficient solid waste collection, drainage clogging and unhealthy living conditions. Sound practices in solid waste management require clear decentralisation of jurisdiction and responsibility, with all stakeholders participating in the waste management system: national and local governments, the private sector, the civil society and last but not least the scavengers who earn their living in the waste business.

Although Dutch government policy gives priority to the prevention of waste streams, recycling options are gaining in importance. In many cases manufacturers are responsible for the removal of their products once they have reached the end of their useful lives. The cost of removal is included in the price of the product, so the polluter pays even though the manufacturers pass on the costs to the consumers. By now most Dutch people are getting used to the handful of extra guilders they have to pay for household appliances, for the cost of disposing them. The principle that the polluter pays and the indispensable cost recovery system are prerequisites to guarantee funding for solid waste management in the long term. If well structured and organised, the privatisation of solid waste services may also play an important role in solid waste management.

The continuing research in the fields of sustainable energy and waste management are a modest contribution in the global effort to keep this world livable. Lack of economical viability left most of this effort up to government funding. Time will come however when the developed insights are very well marketable. Information on different alternative resources of energy can be obtained through the Netherlands Embassy. The Dutch institute IHE organizes trainings on solid waste management.

Netherlands Embassy: nlgovman@pworld.net.ph
IHE: www.ihe.nl

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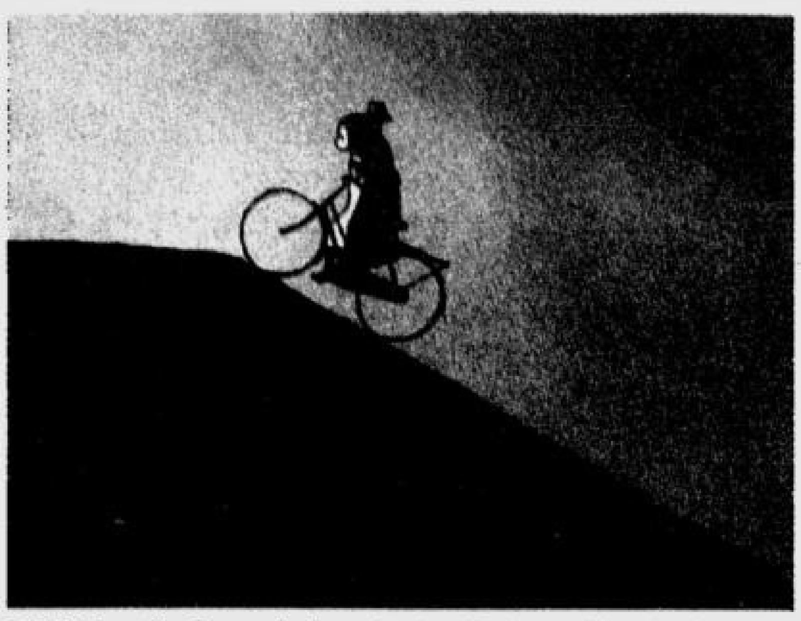


SCENE from the Oscar-winning animation "Father and daughter."

Dutch animation on top

MICHAEL Dudok de Wit had the evening of his live when he was announced winner of this year's Oscar for short animation, for his film 'Father and daughter'. It's the ultimate step in two decades of development of independent animation in the Netherlands.

Animated films from the Netherlands have their own character. They are rarely based on existing characters from stories or comic books. One could say that it is visual art that has been brought to life – as visual art that started to move. Sound effects and music contribute to Dutch animation's expressiveness but verbal language is only sparsely used. Few people outside the Netherlands speak or understand the language. This problem has been turned into an enhancement by concentrating on the images. The visual language of Dutch films is understood around the world.

There is no significant commercial animation industry in the Netherlands. Individual artists, who may need up to two years for producing a short animated film of ten minutes, are the heart of Dutch animation.

To showcase some examples of Dutch animation, the Netherlands Embassy, in cooperation with Animagination (independent Filipino animators) and the Shangri-La Plaza cinema is organizing an animation film festival. The program will be presented by acclaimed Dutch animator Nico Crama.

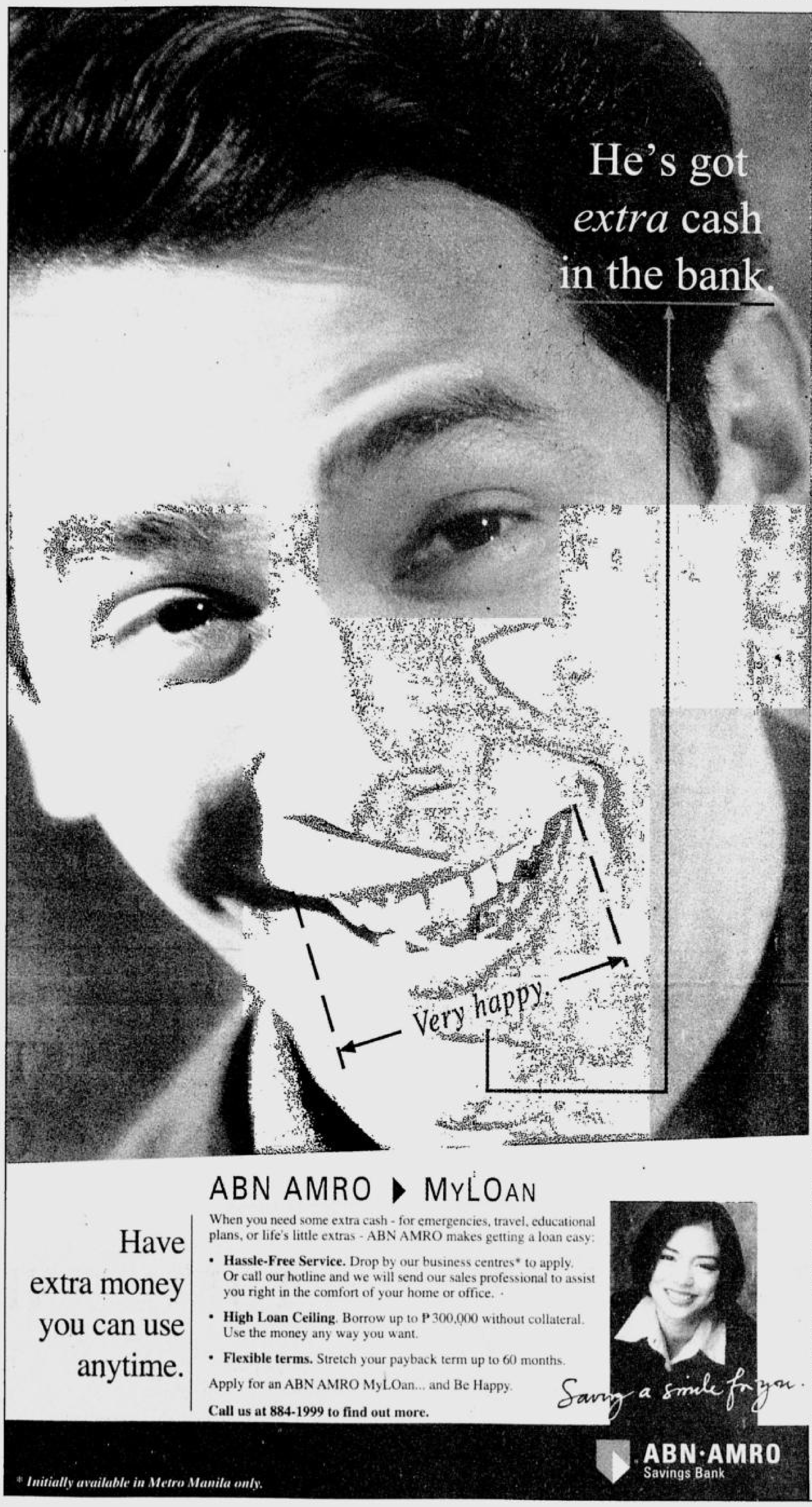
**The Royal Netherlands Embassy
and Animagination present:**

Dutch animation film festival

Shangrila Plaza Cinema

25 May	19.00	opening night with Nico Crama
26 May	15.00	afternoon screening
	19.00	evening screening with Nico Crama
27 May	15.00	afternoon screening
	19.00	evening screening with Nico Crama

Entrance P30



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NAGA
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Dinaga cor.
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Naga City

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Osmeña Blvd.
Capitol Site,
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On the celebration of the Queen's Day

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FIRST RP NURSES TO JOIN QUEEN'S DAY RITES

After months of diligently studying about Dutch language and culture and of patiently waiting for the passage of the Labor provision allowing foreign nurses to work in Netherlands, 15 lucky persevering Filipino Nurses are now working in Netherlands. Thus it will be their privilege to join the whole nation and Dutch Nationals all over the world in commemorating **QUEEN'S DAY** this year.

This landmark hiring of Filipino Nurses was made possible through the pioneering efforts of ODIAN PERSONEELS B.V. in Netherlands and V. G. MIRANDA INTERNATIONAL in the Philippines.

Aside from liberalizing the employment of aliens, the new nursing labor law requires foreign nurses to undergo and pass an intensive training in Dutch language and culture. For this, ODIAN and V. G. MIRANDA have set up the INTERNATIONAL LUZAC FOUNDATION PHILIPPINES as the training center for pre-qualified nurses. Glowing reports from Netherlands have validated the effectivity of the ILF training program as the Filipino nurses continue to impress their hospitals with their language proficiency and adaptation skills.

Now working at PARNASSIA MEDICAL CENTER are the following Filipino nurses : **HELEN NACIS, ROSELYN YANCE, PHILIP CARAIG, FLOYD CORDIAL, ALLAN MONTAÑA, ERIC PATAWARAN, JEFFREY VELASQUEZ, SHERWIN VELASQUEZ and VAL VILLENA.**

While the following are now part of the nursing staff of GOOI NOORD HOSPITAL : **MARILOU CEZAR, RHODA DIMARANAN, HAZEL DOLERA, MARIE ELENA FELICIANO, ANNABEL LEE HALLASGO and GINA MATIBAG.**

HERE ARE EXCERPTS FROM SOME OF THE FIRST LETTERS FROM NETHERLANDS TO MANILA.

Lindsee :

There are times in a man's life where crucial decisions have to be made. For whatever purposes it may be, leaving or parting with your loved ones is critical. This isn't the first time, right ? Remember, I wasn't there on your 1st, 2nd & 3rd birthday, but you've done exceptionally well. Bear in mind that Daddy Cok's & Mama Lily might not be around but your warm presence is always with us and your Mom's and Dad's love will always be with you.
Anyway, things are going on here smoothly. We were warmly welcomed by the people here, the press people were at the airport, the staff of Philippine Embassy gave us a courtesy visit at Hollywood Café & the staff of ODIAN PERSONEELS B.V. have been very supportive. And thru the kind consideration of **MR. & MRS. ERIC LUZAC**, everything had been easy for us so far.
Lindsee, hold your head up and tell the world that your loving Daddy is now in Holland. Regards to Mommy, Daddy, Tita Gia & Ate Lina. Bye & I love you.

RENAN MONTAÑA, RN
De Ocampo Memorial Hospital Class 1992

[illegible] but we were given a warm welcome. We [illegible] while we are walking. [illegible] place is very clean everywhere. Even the hospital where we work is different.

I just can't compare it even to the Makati Medical Center or Manila Medical Center, How beautiful and how clean is our hospital here. The food are all fresh like fruits, vegetables and not too expensive. I think I will come back to Netherlands when I finish my contract. In my place where I live, we have kitchen, phone, television, nice room, nice environment. The only thing that I can say is "Ang Ganda ng Netherlands" and I hope that the second batch of the nurses will come soon.

GINA L. MATIBAG, RN
Galang Medical Center College, Class 1993

Photo shows 1st Filipino Nurses granted Dutch work permit during courtesy call on CONSUL JAN F. VAN VRIESLAND and ASST. ATTACHE MRS. OUTOMO of the Royal Ducth Embassy in Makati.

Dear Friends back home:

My name is Rhoda G. Dimaranan. I am 29 years old and I am one of the 15 Nurses who successfully finished the course on Dutch Language and Culture. Finally, the long wait is over. It was April 10, 2000 when we started the course. It was a lot of hard work….. and lot of books to read and understand. I remember that we were 100 hopeful candidates in the said course. Everyone was so excited and anxious. It took me a lot of patience and courage to hurdle this difficult endeavor. Luzac Foundation made a miracle in making us speak the Dutch Language… Of course, I owe it to my teachers like CARLO GLEISBERG , ROB STEVENS AND EMMEKE BOOT and I will never forget that. In the said course, I gained a lot of friends, Now, I am here, working in a very beautiful country and highly modern hospital. The people here are warm compared to other countries and I can say that I am very pleased and satisfied. I am currently working with the UROLOGY AND ORTHOPEDIC DEPARTMENT and I will do my best in working here because I owe it to the Dutch people. MABUHAY!

RHODA DIMARANAN, RN
Galang Medical Central College Class 1992

HAPPY QUEEN'S DAY FROM:

INTERNATIONAL LUZAC FOUNDATION
BOB DELA CHICA, ROB STEVENS, CARLO GLEISBERG, YVONNE SCHAAP, NICOLE VAN HERWINJEN, MARINA MARREE, SICHSKE VAN VOORTHUIJSEN, HEDWIG KLEIN GUNNEWIEK, ERIKA BONARIUS

ODIAN PERSONEELS B.V.
MR. ERIC LUZAC, ROB HEAXMAN, HANS EEUWHORST, EMMEKE BOOT, , PETER MADJID, ANJA, AND INGRID

V.G. MIRANDA INTERNATIONAL

HAPPY QUEEN'S DAY!

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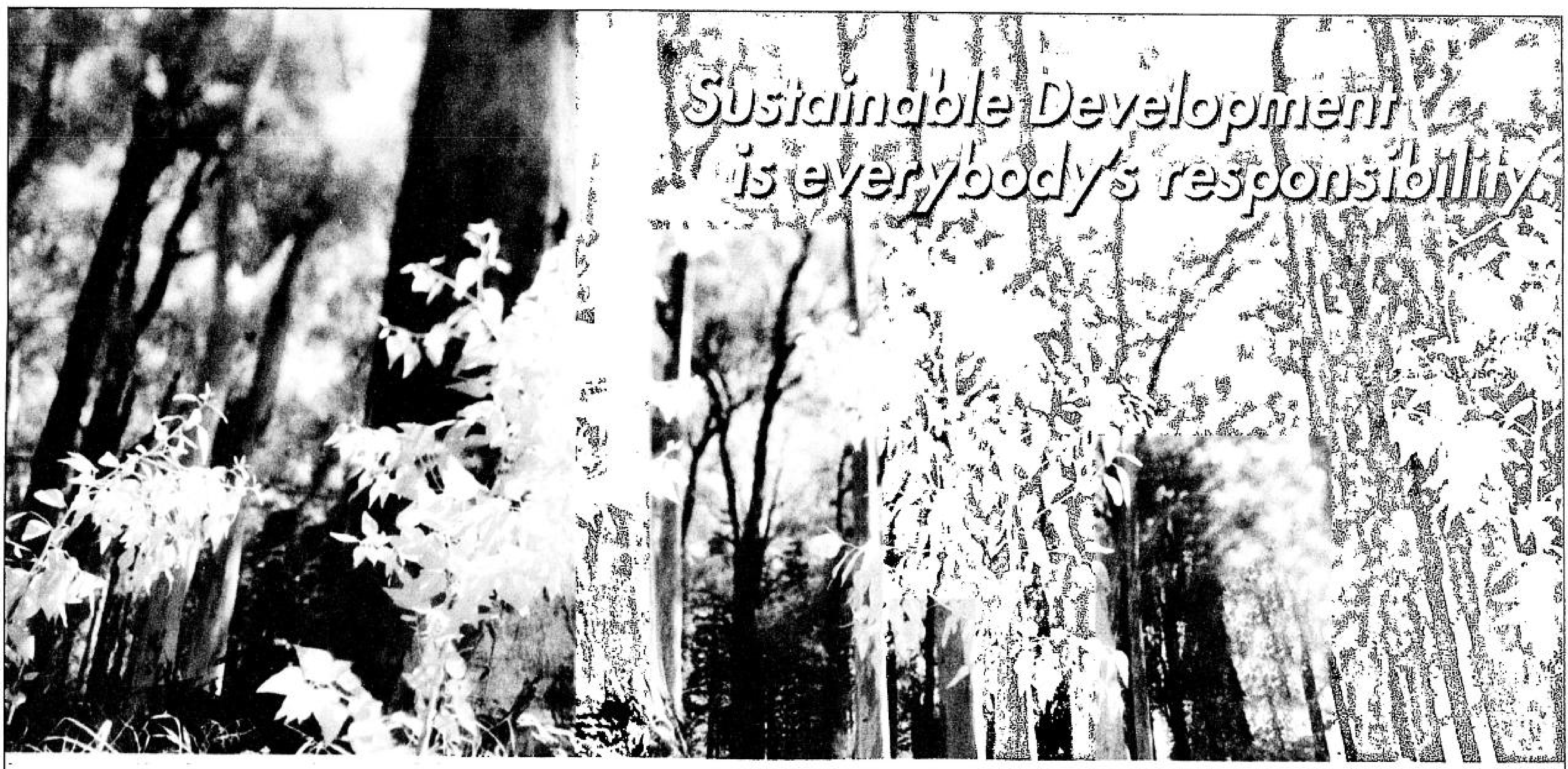

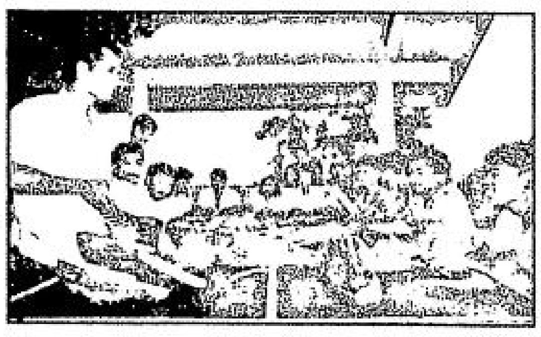

Sustainable Development is about balance and integration. Integrating the economic, social and environmental aspects of everything we do and balancing short-term wants with long term needs. To contribute to Sustainable Development, we must approach our business in a different way.

Netherlands on the Net

THE INTERNET offers a broad range of information about the Netherlands

English The English-language option on the Dutch home page, where all the web sites in the Netherlands are listed, gives you an immediate overview as to which Dutch web sites are in English.
- www.track.nl

Tourist Board The Netherlands' Tourist Board's site. Information on thousands of things to do and places to stay. An ideal starting point for planning a trip to the Netherlands.
- www.visitholland.com

Embassy The Netherlands Embassy in Manila has an informative site with interesting links, information on embassy activities and visa regulations
- www.dutchembassy.ph

Airport Information on Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport. Arrivals, departures, how to get to Schiphol and how to find your way around it.
- www.schiphol.nl

Train Information on the Dutch Railways. Timetables for both national and international train travel. Includes an online Journey Planner.
- www.ns.nl/reisplan2.asp

Amsterdam If you plan to stay in Amsterdam, go to one of these sites. Very useful sites with hundreds of links to just about everything. Emphasis on Amsterdam but enough links to national sites as well.
- www.pscw.uva.nl/sociosite
- www.amsterdamfordummies.nl
- www.channels.nl

Language A quick and helpful course to help you learn a few phrases in Dutch. It will help you to order a cup of coffee, and even includes a dictionary.
- www.travlang.com

Museum Museum site with information on and links to most Dutch museums. Also virtual museums and exhibits, addresses, and discussion pages. Very useful.
- www.museumserver.nl

Politics Dutch politics on the web. Many links to political sites in The Netherlands. Not all of these will be available in English.
- www.overheid.nl

Hotels Reserve a hotelroom over the Internet. Standard information on the rooms, prices and addresses. The first site mentioned is slightly better.
- www.bookings.nl and
- www.hotelnet.nl

Weather Look up the current weather in 15 different Dutch cities or anywhere else in the world. Includes three day forecast. Temperatures both in Fahrenheit and Celcius.
- www.weather.com

Outpost Partners and relatives of Shell employees posted abroad have long had access to the Outpost Expatriate Information Center in The Hague. The network offers practical support and information on working in many different countries.
- www.outpostexpat.nl

Flowers Everything you always wanted to know about flowers. Includes links, news and coming events.
- www.flowerweb.com (English) or:
- www.flowerweb.nl (Dutch)

Access The Access foundation helps English-speaking foreigners seeking to integrate into Dutch society. The site offers information on language and integration lessons for new arrivals and a list of publications and links
- www.euronet.nl/users/access

Statistics The Dutch Central Bureau for statistics produces statistics on population size, economic growth, work and unemployment.
- www.cbs.nl/indexeng.htm

Students The Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education, Nuffic, has a special section for foreign students. It contains a great deal of worthwhile information about the Netherlands.
- www.nuffic.nl/index-en.html

General interest You'll find interesting links to Dutch cities provinces and agencies on the Yahoo site:
- dir.yahoo.com/regional/countries/netherlands

Books

DESPITE considering themselves to be open, accessible and tolerant, it can be useful to have some guidance in dealing with the Dutch. Foreigners are not alone however, a small library could be filled with books to help them.

The Holland Handbook By various authors. Handsome book for a very mixed group of readers; professionals, expatriates' partners and also foreign students. Scriptum publishers Schiedam. Also available: The

X-pat Journal, a quarterly magazine (in English) with up-to-date information about leisure, legal affairs and expatriate management.
☎ + 31 70 306 33 10.

Dealing with the Dutch Living and working in other cultures by Jacob Vossestein. Dutch author places emphasis on doing business with the Dutch. Enriched by many quotes from foreigners who have already done so. Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Amsterdam 1998

The Low Sky. Understanding the Dutch by Han van der Horst. Dutch historian digs a little deeper, manages to stay clear of clichés and tries to find solid explanations for Dutch behavior. Interesting and informative. Scriptum Books Schiedam/Nuffic Den Haag 1996

The UnDutchables by Colin White & Laurie Boucke. The most popular of all the 'Life in Holland' books. A sometimes funny account by Englishman White and American Boucke who have observed the Dutch (painfully) well. White Boucke, 1999. Nijgh & Van Ditmar, Amsterdam. 1996.

Dutch Cooking by Heleen A.M. Halverhout.
A Dutch cookbook with many recipes for typical dishes, from thick pancakes with bacon to *oliebollen.* Publisher: De Driehoek. By the same author: The Netherlands Cookbook.

Culture shock
Netherlands, a guide to customs and etiquette by Hunt Janin. As the subtitle suggests, an introduction course on life in The Netherlands. Janin is an American living in France. Kuperard 1998.

Here's Holland Practical guide for tourists and expats alike to explore Holland by Sheila Gazaleh-Weevers. ISBN 90-801255-2-0.
www.bol.com has an extensive collection of Dutch books

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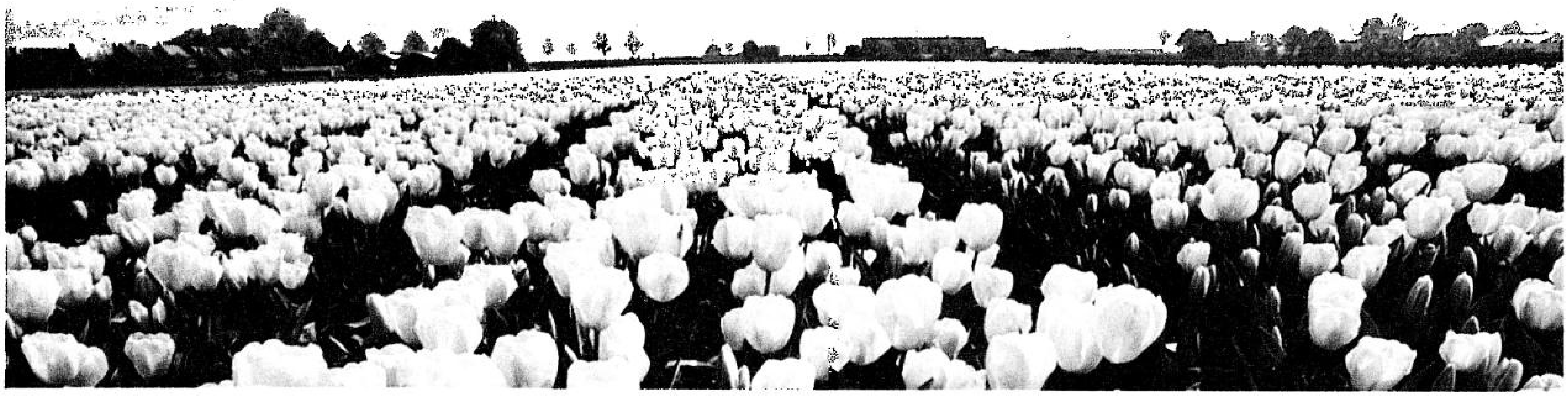
Floriade 2002: nature imitates art

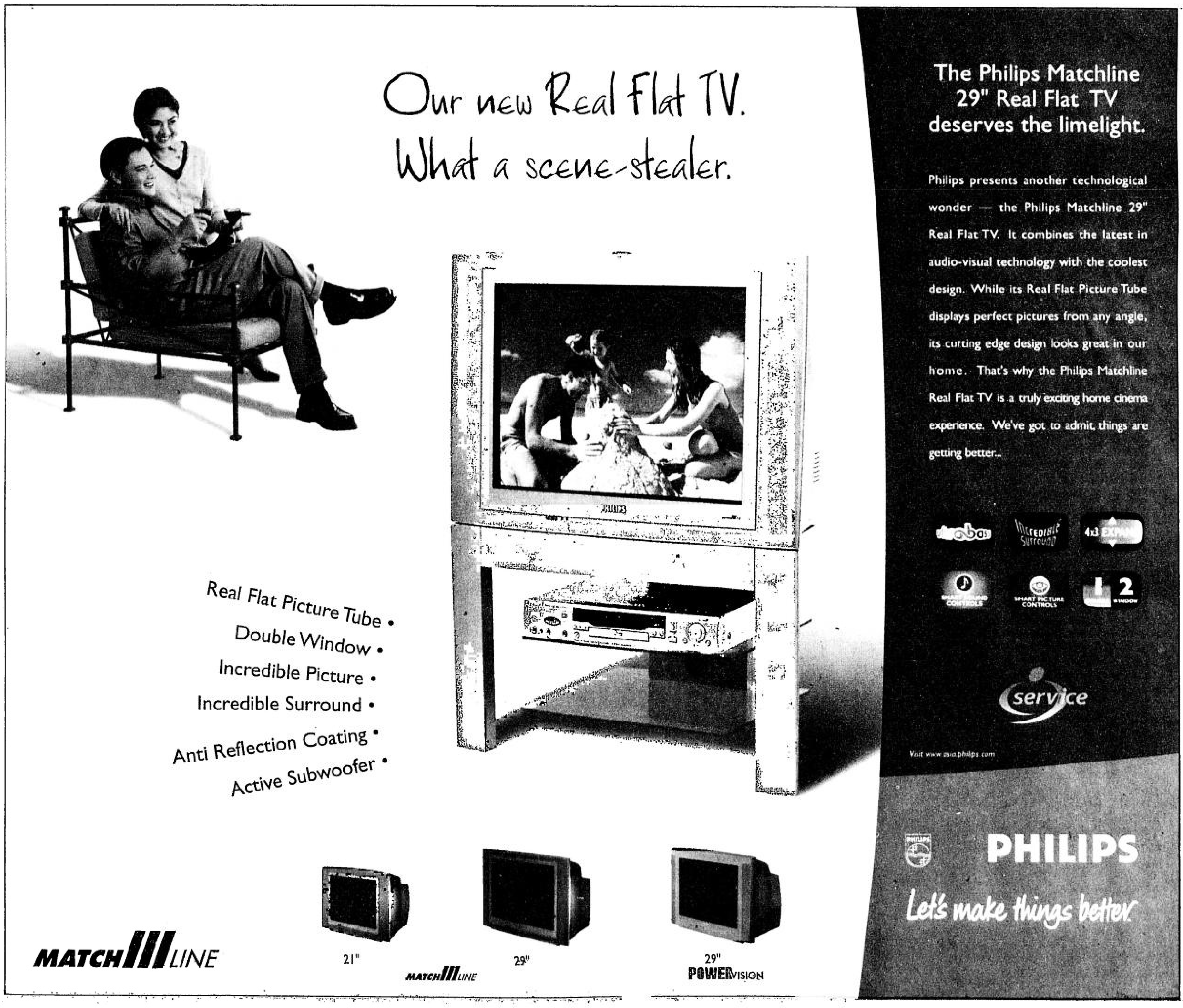
FLORIADE is a world-renowned horticultural show held in the Netherlands every 10 years – and a symbol of the country's status as the Land of Flowers. Floriade lets you see, smell, and taste all that grows and blooms in the Netherlands, along with much else from outside the country. Floriade 2002 will be exhibiting bulbs, flowers, plants, trees, vegetables, and fruit in all possible combinations. A Floriade park is being laid out between Hoofddorp and Haarlem, and its 50 hectares will accommodate nurseries, art exhibits, multimedia presentations, and nature areas.

Floriade was started by the Dutch Horticultural Council (INTR), which represents two distinct industries: ornamental plant cultivation (plants and flowers) and market gardening (fruits and vegetables). Floriade attracts growers and traders from both industries, making it a showcase for the whole horticultural sector. Its management board promotes Floriade in around 60 countries, working with experienced partners including the Netherlands Board of Tourism (NBT), the tourist information offices (VVV's), Rabobank, the Start temporary employment agency, and various other horticultural organizations.

Landscape architect Niek Roozen is responsible for designing Floriade 2002. He has already designed the exhibition park's basic layout, reserving space for Dutch and international exhibitors to install presentations in the next few years. The park will have three parts: Vijfhuizen, where the main entrance will stand; Haarlemmermeerse Bos, a 25-year-old forest with a lake and natural growth; and Meerbos, which includes "Big Spotters Hill", a 40-meter-high summit with a view of the surrounding polder landscape.

Preparations for Floriade 2002 have been in full swing since 1996. The park's paths have now been laid, trees have been planted, and the banks of the Haarlemmermeerse Plas have been adorned with Belgian stone. For more information on Floriade 2002, visit its website: www.floriade.nl. The floriade will be open to the public between April 6, 2002 and Oct. 20, 2002.





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